¶STRAVNGE, Lamentable, and Tragi-*call Hystories.*

TRANSLATED OVT OF French into Englishe, by R.S. ✻

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C. STEVENS

To the right Worshipfull, Mayster Henry Vernon of Stoke, in the Countye of Salop, & Mayster John Vernon of Sudbury, in the Countye of Darby, Esquyers. T. N. wisheth long lyfe, continuall health, and prosperous felicitie, &c.

BEing already by true triall (no-thers sufficiently taught, and by mutuall conference in my selfe throughly perswaded of the singuler curtesy, and favourable lenitie lodging within you, I was the bolder (Right Worshipfull) at this present, to prefix your names in the forehead of this little boke, in token of that entire good wil, which (by an inviolable vow) I beare to your persons, in respecte of your rare vertues, and the great desyre I haue to gratifye your surpassing curtesyes, if my abilitie might stretch any way, to counterpoyse the waight of my inward affection. And for as much as Nature hath linked you together so straightly

and firmely with the infringible chaine of Consanguinitie, kinred, and agreement of maners: I demed it an offence equal almost with sacrilege, for so smal a matter as this, to seperate and dissever you. Beseeching your Worships to make no other cõstruction, or interpretation of my meaning, then my simplicitie pretendeth, and by your friendlye acceptaunce hereof, to countenaunce the travayle of him, who is not vsed to answere for himselfe: whiche request I make the more earnestly for him, for that in such a case, a man may with more face of honesty, sue and intreate for his friend, then for himselfe. Of whyche your accustomed favoures, as I nothing stande in doubte: So dove I heartily beseeche God, to prosper, protect, and direct you in all your rightfull attempres, and Godly enterprises, and after many yeres

here Worſhipfully ſpent, to make you Co-heyres with his Sonne Chriſt, in his glorious Hierarchie. At Butley this .xxx. of October. 1577.

Yours moſt bounden. T. N.

¶ T.N. to the curteous, friendlye, and indifferent Reader.

As the Bookes be many, and the deuyses sundry, which now a days in great swarmes are sent abroade, and publyshed: so lykewyse, pregnaunt are the wittes, and rype are the iudgementes of a great number, whith busyly bestow their trauayles, and learnedly lend the practyses of their pennes to display, discipher, and offer out to the gazing view of the world, ỹ froze of their cunning, and the gallauntnesse of their inuentions: Some tende to good, and Godly purposes: some to vayne and tryfeling fantasyes: some conduce to the aduauncement of vertue & commendation of the wel deseruing: some to the suppressing, debelling, beating downe, and subduing of vyce, with a detestation of the loathsome lyfe of the wicked, and the ruynous end of their pestiferous dealinges. And some (the more pitye) serue altogither to norish wantonnesse, and mayntayne lasciuious lustes. But howsoeuer they deale herein, well I wot, that they eyther doe, or else ought, and should euery one according to his ability, to further and promote vertue, and by all conuenyent meanes to rebate lose lyfe, & to bring vyce into contempte among all men: the very practise whereof, bringeth detestation, and the end wherof breedeth confusyon. And because no way semeth so redy to exhort, anymate, aduyse, and incourage to well doing, neyther any course so direct to dehort, terrifye, abash, and discorage from euill doing, and especially them of the yonger sorte (wherein is moste daunger, and who yet stand tottering and balauncing in the scales of aduysement, vncertayne which way to wende, or what path to trace) from the ordinary pursuit of their wilful affections and inordinate appetites, then by the Examples of others, that haue trodden the way afore, whose successe they may applye to their owne direction: therfore haue many good Authours, both old and new, peculyarlye intituled their

their worckes by the name and tytle of Examples? Methodically couched in playne Hystoryes: wherein be lyuely patternes set downe & expressed, testifying what gaynes is gayned by voluptuous lyfe, and what guerdon ensueth sensuall appetite: wherein as in a Table, is forcibly delineated, how some for vertue, haue risen to honour, fame, dignitie, and renowne, and some for vyce haue bene throwne downe, and buryed in the pit of dishonour, shame, reproch, and eternall infamy. So that the worthy aduancement of the one, maye be a sharp spurre to styre vp to goodnesse, and the lothsome beastlynesse of the other, a bridle to reine our appetytes frō these inconueniences, wherein we se them to haue bene for their demerytes, condignly plunged, to ỳ open ouerthrowes of their present estates, and obloquious stayn to all their posteritie. For certaynelye the view and consideration of the accidentes that haue vrged others (for notorious enormyties committed, and lose lyfe lewdely lead,) vpon the rufull rockes, and sandy shelues of lamentable losse, and doleful decaye, is in my opynyon a good document for vs to beware of semblable folly, & to keepe our selues within the prescripte boundes of modest behauyour. To this ende Hystoryes and Pamphlets, as well of the good successe of well doers, as of the ill happes of the wicked, doe generally tende and purposely serue, and are alyke expedient, so that they be simply interpreted, and rightly applyed. In the number of whiche well meanyng wryters, I dare to enrole the wryter, and translator of these present Hystoryes, & Tragicall troubles, out of French, into this our English tongue, meaning not hereby to open any moe wyndowes, to vnstayed youth, whereby to egge them to spende their golden tyme, in perusing peeuish, paltring, and poysonous Pamphlets, and so to corrupte their vnsetled dispositions, but by modeste and seasonable aduertisementes, to reclayme their fonde fyckle fantasyes, and to quallifye their vntemperate and headye humours. For the bringing of which matter to better passe, the penner hereof, thought himself to haue taken a good and direct course, by enterlacing pleasure with profyte, and by

reducing the ground of his conceyued meaning, into a meete
Methode of Hystoryeal occurrence. And for that it is none of
the least part of mercy, to father the Fatherlesse, and protect
the poore Orphane, from the gripy iawes of rauenous ra-
kers, I haue here restored to him his due, and set forth hys
trauayle euen as he left it, without any iniury eyther to his
person, or any inf gewing his honest and painful endeuours:
for I accompt it no good dealing, that any mã should thrust
his syeth into an others Haruest, or lyke Esopes Crow to vs-
surpe and tette abroade, decked with the Feathers of
other bewtifuller Wyzds for to haue such a tyckling tyche,
or rather scabbe of vayneglorious fame, to arrogate that to
himselfe, which an other mans toyle hath enterpryzed and
brought to passe. Beseeching the gëtle Reader to accepe wel
in worth this pretty Pamplet, little (I confesse) in bulk, but
fraught with such matter, as may, if thou will, yeld thee good
& wholesome instruction: which as it now perchance lacketh
not here and there his imperfections, so (had God sent to the
Authour longer lyfe) would haue bene better polyshed, & as
voyde of faults and sklapes in the pryntyng, as his mynd
was free & fit inftly giuing occasiõ of office to any. Which
courtesye, if (accordingly) there appeare to re-
mayne wythin thee, then (doubtlesse) is his
payne fully rewarded, and my ex-
pectation sufficyentlye sa-
tysfyed. Fare-
well.

¶CERTAINE STRANGE and Lamentable Tragicall Hiſtoryes.

¶A iuſt Fact, but to cruell, of Iohn Maria, Duke of Myllayne, towarde a Prieſt extreme couetous.

IOhn Maria Vicont, ſonne of Iohn Galeas, vnto whome the Emperour Ladiſllaus gaue the tytle and name of Duke of Myllayne, was he that ſucceeding in the eſtate and dignity of Duke, made himſelfe knowne and renowned, before all the Princes of his tyme: not in ſhewing himſelfe more vertuous then they, or in ſurpaſſing the good Fortune of that good Galeas his Father, who I thinke neuer committed any other notable euill, then that he lefte behynde him a plague ſo great and daungerous as his ſonne, the ſucceſſyon of whome, was no more fortunate for the Millinois, then was once the Romayne Monarchy of Marcus Aurelius, leauing for the inheritour of the Empyre, that Butcher and

Swoꝛde player Commodus, a lyuelye ex-
ample of creweltye and mischiefe, and
truelye hys Countrey myghte well haue
coniectured their Misfoꝛtune, in that John
Maria was called to the Dignitye of the
Dukedome, after that all Italye had seene
the Oꝛygynall of the Ciuill warres so often
wꝛytten of by the Hystoꝛyans, whiche so
muche weakened the strength of Italye, and
abaled the gloꝛye of thole thinges whiche
remayned to them, as Reliques escaped
from the handes of so manye Barbary-
ans and Straungers, that hadde foyled
with their feꝛte, the honour of that Godlye
Pꝛouynce, foꝛ it was after that the
Guelfes and Gibilines had thoughlye de-
nyded themselues, leauyng no coꝛner of
Italye, that was notte Dyed wyth the
bloud of the pooꝛe Cittizens, and was it not
pittyfull, to see the Nobilitye chased and
wandꝛing abꝛoade, there beyng no crea-
ture that felte not thys Tempeste, and
whyche pꝛeceyued not the vehemencye of a
deuylyon so furyous, so that all Natyons
of Europe, had their accesse to make their
Rodes into Italye, and there to pyll the
Cittyes, and fertyle Fyeldes, called into
the country, eyther by the one oꝛ the other of
the Factions.

But

But this Duke was renowned for the moste cruell and inhumayne Tyraunte, that euer was nourished in Christendome, and I beleeue that Eucynus Phalaris, or that Thracian king which fostred his Horses with the bodyes of the dead, did neuer surpasse him in crueltye, and although his Predicessoures had bene Princes, very mercifull, and gentle, and that by their modestye, they had attayned to the place of suche Prehemynence, yet this is he which forgetting the house wherof he came, did degenerate from the bloud of his Ancestours, being despightfull, for that Fortune had bene otherwyse to him, then she had bene towardes that excellent John Galeas his Father, and to Valentyne that was wyfe to the Duke of Orleans, shee whych was slayne at Paris, by the Duke of Burgoyne his men, doeth so accarnate hymselfe, that hee caused to be deuoured in his presence, by Mastyfes brought vp to that ende, those whyche for the leaste occasyon that hee fantasyed in his mynde, dydde displease hym, hauyng for the Mynyster of hys crueltye, and in steade of Prouest Marshall, a Gentleman named, Squarce Gyrame, as courteous as hys Lorde, and who in the ende was also payde wyth the same paymente, as was hys Mayster,

ster, being both togyther as cruelly slayne, as vnpittifull they had fleshed themselues vppon the myserable people of Millayne, during the tyme then that this incorporate Deuill reioyseth himselfe, and sheweth these tragicall and detestable actes of hys cruell lyfe, this thing chaunced which I am now about to describe vnto you, to the ende you may beholde the two great and extreame vyces, the one of Auaryce in a Priest, and the other of the crueltie of the Duke. John Maria ryding one day thorough his Cittye, as commonly he did, not onely for to beholde the faultes of his subiectes, but more to search out if any one durst complayn of the detestable maners of his lyfe, and the very hauty and tyrannical doings of his raygn, to the end he might seeme to haue some reason to tormēt him, that shoulde complayne without cause of his Lord, that as yet had giuen him no occasyon: Thus as he made these Journeys, he hard a farre of, a great crye, and the voyce of a woman complayning, who clapping her handes, did eleuate her voyce verye high, thinking that GOD was deafe, and that he will not heare our necessityes, without such a sturre, to whome he sent one of his seruaunts, to know the cause of a crye so fearefull, who found it at the doore of a pore woman, whose husband was lately deceased, that thus complayned, as well for the losse of her companyon, as also for that

shee

ſhee had not wherewith to bring him to the earth. Alas, ſayth the woman (half deſperate) whether may the poore haue their recourſe: ſyth the very Church hath denyde their duetyes to them, vnto whome they be bounde, to whome may I addreſſe my ſelfe: not hauing wherewith to ſatiſfye, or glent the deſyre of my inſatiable Curat, that is neyther content with the gayns which he hath, ſuffring this body without life, to remayne without Sepulture, onely for the herytage of all the goods whiche he hath lefte me in this worlde for my comforte, for if I wyll haue him interred, of neceſſitye I muſt ſell all my moueables, and afterwards not knowing how to relieue my Infantes. Ah falſe Paſtor, I beſeech God to puniſh with ſome great perſecution, both thee and them which are of lyke condicions, ſaying ſo, with cryes, teares, ſobs, and ſighes, ſhe pardoneth not her owne cheekes and face, but ſcratcheth the one, ſhe bepaynteth the others, ſtryking herſelfe vpon the ſtomack, and ſhewing dyuers other ſygnes of a woman diſtraught, the Dukes man ſeeing her to ſhewe ſuch faſhyons, addreſſt him towardes her, ſaying: My friende, what wrong is this that is done to you, and wherefore ſhewe you ſo great dule: tell me, becauſe I may make the reporte to my Lord, who hath ſent me hyther to know the matter, and aſſure your ſelf, if any one hath offended you, he will extend ſuch Juſtice, that

ſhares.

yon shall be contente and satisfyed, and the authoures shall haue whereof to take example, and withholden to doe iniurye to the poore in suche a Towne as thys, where the Lorde wyll that Justyce be done to euery one, without respecte of estate.

The woman who knewe by his Lyuerye, that hee was one of the Dukes Seruauntes, whose presence although it were not verye agreeable vnto her, in thynking that hee came there but onelye to seeke some praye, yet not feating anye worse aduenture then her owne, nor anye Fortune more frowarde then the estate wherein shee was, and also for that death to her woulde haue bene great solace, ioying also that the Officyer had talked vnto her so gentlye, aunswereth him in thys sorte.

Alas Syr, beholde there the deade bodye of my Husbande, which the Prieste of thys Parrishe hath refused to burye, for that I haue not wherewith to satisfye him for his payne, and to content him for the Funerals. This is the occasyon why I torment my selfe, not knowing how I maye interre the deade Corpes, the onely memorye whereof, hath made mee so full of sorrowe and dule, and to showe before your eyes this outrage. The Duke which this space attended to know the occasy-

occasyon of this crye, vnto whome his man being retourned, sayth: My Lorde, in this house before you, is a poore woman, inuyroned wyth small Chyldren, (whose Husbande thys morning being dead), hath desyred the Preest to burye the bodye of the deade, but hee vnlesse shee will paye the interrage, and the accustomed Funeralles, hath vtterlye denyed her to goe aboute it, wherefore shee maketh this noyse, not hauing wherewith to doe it, and furthermore, if shee shoulde sell her moueables, shee hath not wherewyth then to bring vp her small Infantes.

John Maria hearing him tell of a Facte so Vylonyous, and of a couetousnesse so detestable, began to laugh, whose laughter was a prognostication of the teares of some man. Then tourning to them of hys Trayne, hee sayth.

Truely this mayster Curate is very vncharitable, and greatly giuen to his owne profyte, so to denye his helpe to them that requyre him, syth that it is his duety, and hee is hyred to doe it. Therefore it is good that I shewe him the waye, and exercyse our Charitye in this, causing this body to be intombed, and then to extende our almes to this woman, that lamenteth as well for her owne losse, as

for that shee beholdeth her selfe charged wyth Infantes, and not knowing howe to keepe them, shoulde not this be well done? sayeth he to his Gentlemen: Truely my Lorde answereth one of the trayne, this acte would bee as greatly praysed, as any good deede that you can doe in this worlde, and especially for that your excellencye in forgetting your Nobillity, shall so much abate your selfe, as to accompany the most poore to the earth, and to succour their widdowes, although they neuer did you anye seruyce: Let vs go then (sayth the Duke,) the Priest as it may be, will doe his duetye to this partye, at my desyre, wherefore I will giue him such a Salary for his paynes, as all hys lyfe after, he shall not haue cause to complaine: He sayth this, thinking so well to chasten the Priest, that from thence forth he shoulde make no more such refusals, commanding then, that he which had bene first at the house of the widdowe, should go for the Curate to come talke with the Duke, for a matter of great importaunce. The mayster Chaplen which thought of nothing lesse, then the fault which he had done, and remembred not at all of the dead, the corpes of whome, remayned without Sepulture, came forthwyth to the Dukes presence, whome after the Duke had well beholden, and seeing him fat, grosse in euery poynt, and cloathed in rich Apparell, was not abashed at all

of

of the refusal that he had made to the poore woman, as well for his well lyking, whereby hee shewed that one howre of pleasure, was an hundered tymes more agreable vnto him, then a thousand yeres of seruitude, and that also to nourish such a belly, it was needefull to haue more gaynes, then to ese of his cure, hauing his vsage more lyke the picture of some Swollen Bacchus, then of one professing the studye of diuinitie, fynally this Priest did not vary at all from the moste parte of them, that at this daye to the great domage of all Christendome, haue entered into the Ministery, who thinke that they haue done their duety, in making a feast or Dinner to their equalles, without remembring the rest of their office, neyther to visyte the poore, nor to succour them, according to the Statutes, and ordinaunces of the holy Canons, ordayned by the generall and sacred counsels, but are become feeders of their owne bellyes, and dumme dogges, so that the onely name of Priesthood ought to shadowe them, and suffyce as they imagyne, wythout necessitie to put their hand to the worke, and to satisfye by effect, that for which they be called. Our Curate then bolde and assured, presenteth hymself to John Maria, saying: My Lord, it hath pleased your excellency to commaunde mee to come before you, may it also please you to shewe me the thing wherein you wyll imploy me, in

which I will obey you, as he that desireth no thing but to serue and please you. The wyly and subtle Lord, seeyng the fayned curtesy and pleasant words of the yong John, began to laugh, and to mocke him with his glory, and to detest his imprudent audacyte, answering him: I haue sent for you to the ende you should cause to bee brought to the earth, that poore man which is one of your parishioners, & I will giue you the reward and Salary that you merite, for it is neyther inhonourete that such a man as you, should be imployed without recompence. Pardone mee my Lord sayth the Priest, your only commandement doth sufficyce, & your grace holdeth the place of al satysfaction: wel, wel, sayeth the Duke, I accept all that you haue sayd, and beleeue that you woulde doe more for mee then this, sythy at this tyme I see you so prest to doe your duety in this afayre, therefore goe prepare your selfe, for I will assist you at the obsequies, assuring you, that you shalbe recompenced before I depart, as I intend, and according to your desartes.

Now the Chaplayne, which thought that he was already placed in the office of the Dukes Almoner, beyng pleasaunte and merrye departeth towardes his Church, where hee setteth all thinges in order, and sendeth for a good companye of Priestes and others, whych serued ordinarilye in the Churches, because hee

would

would with more greater pompe, and honour accompany the Corpes, for which the Duke had so desyred him.

But the myserable Priest sawe not, that was the Trayne whyche Fortune had ordayned for him, and howe neare the howre dyd approache, at which he must paye the arrerages of his afore passed lyfe, and aboue all that great and vyle synne of cruell Auaryce, by an other crueltye the moste straunge that hath beene heard of, and I am abashed, howe he should be so far beside his wyt, that seeing the fault which he had committed, knowing the nature of his Lord, himself hearing him speake so doubtfully, and with wordes smelling more of his choller then gentlenesse, howe he durste retourne and represent himselfe agayne before the furyous face of his Prince: But what? he was so blynded with Auaryce, and led with the desyre of Money, that euerye looke seemed vnto hym courteous, and euery word pleasaunte, syth the talke of gayne and recompence marched therewyth. The vnhappye Priest had forgotten that the Duke for the leaste occasyon that myght bee, caused to bee dysmembered with hys Dogges, men women, and chyldren, wythoute hauyng regarde eyther to Sex or Age, so vnnaturall and cruell weare hys condycyons. What? ought hee to hope of more gentle-

A cruell custome of the Duke of Millayne.

nesse and humanitie, then an infynite number of the Citizens of Millayn, the death of whom serued for a pastyme to the rage of this cruell Duke. What thought he to fynd him more religyous towards him: then iust to them whose innocencye had made them vnworthye of all punishment. Alas, although he had rendred Bologna the great vnto the Pope, and that he had humbled himselfe to the Apostolicall seate very mekely, yet this was more for feare and imbecillitie, then for the affection that hee had to religyon, for it is impossible that such a Barbarous and cruel Tyraunt, should eyther honour or reuerence God, or that he should acknowledge anye thing that toucheth the respect of Religion, witnesse of this was once that Tyraunt Denis of Scascill, after that he mocked and reioyced at the sacriledge & crueltye, making no conscience to pill and rob the Temples, for these contemners fayne all gentlenes and dissemble to haue their myndes full of all deuotion and holynesse: But you see by effecte to what ende tendeth their symplicity, and it is the honour and feare of God that pricketh and mooueth them to some reuerence, leauing this discourse, we will retourne agayne to our Priest, who caused to be caryed the most fayne and riche Crosse of his Churche, prouyding Clarks to carry the Coppes, and vsing suche diligence, as if he had bene the moste ryche Vsurer

surer of al the banquers of Lombardy, and not forgetting to couer him with the most rych couering of his Church.

The Duke hearing the iangling and noyse of the Belles, could not refrayne from laughter, saying: By God Mayster Curat you show well the greedy appetyte of your auarice, syth the dead carcases doe so displease you without offence, I will gyue you such a reward as shal remayne in memory here this hundred yeres: His men by these wordes perceyued well that the Duke had deuysed somewhat agaynst the Curat, & assured themselues seeing his countenaunce, which the Priest feared as much as death: But behold now the Chaplayne wyth his company, came and sang the Ambrosyan Vygils, before the doore of the dead, to whom the Duke was assistaunte, and hearde wyth pacyence and good deuotyon, the Durge sung for the dead, which he beheld gladly then, for one that accompanyed him, during this styre he gaue commandement to the graue makers, that they shoulde make the graue verye deepe and large, without telling why so, of whome he was obayed, for that they knewe the commaunder, who was wel known in his Dukedome, more for feare, then loue that any of hys Subiects bare him, for that is very true which is commonly sayd, that men hate him deadly, whome they feare, the seruice being ended in

the Church, there was great Funerall pompe shewed in going to the Churchyarde, to fynish the Obsequyes, that yet before the bodye was put into the earth, they song Psalmes, and other Prayers, in suche a case accustomed, where the Prieste obserued suche a grauytye and reuerence in hys Ceremonyes, that hee himselfe could scarce forbeare the pleasure that he receyued of his well doing. But beholde here the last acte of the Tragedye, for as soone as all was fynished, and that the Prieste had cast holy water vpon the dead body, leauyng the office to put him into the earth, to them that had the charge thereof, which began straight wayes to fulfyll the last Ceremonye of the buryall, then the Duke calleth vnto them, saying: That they muste attende, for as yet all the Ceremonyes of the Funerall were not perfyte, for he woulde honoure the deade wyth some thing otherwyse, then they thoughte of, all men were astonyed at thys newe acte of the Duke, and moreouer because he addressed him towardes the Prieste, with his face inflamed wyth choler, and a voyce representing his fury, saying: Chaplayn, if thy Auarice did not render thee more infamous then the rest of thy hypocriticall syfe, doth giue the good renowne, I should haue some occasyon to dissemble thy faulte, if thou didst vse it onely to them, that haue wherewyth to satisfye thy appetyte, and sustayne

Horrible water cast vpon dead bodyes.

sustayne their owne housholde: But syth I perceyue with myne eyes that thou arte but a rauening Wolfe, whych destroyest the spoyle of thy Flocke, I will pay thee presentlye according to the merytes of thy charitye, whyche being spoken, hee tourneth him towardes them that woulde haue put the Corse into the Graue, to whome he vseth these, or lyke words: For as muche as this Priest beeing a lyue, woulde not accompanye the deade to the Graue, I will that quycke and dead he shall holde hym company vnto the day of the great Resurrectyon, therefore take and bynde hym wyth the Corse, and put them both in togythets, to the end that the presence of the priest, being in this apparell that he is, may make them welcome among the Deuils, when they must passe by the chambers of hel, al the would as I haue said, were so astonyed of the beastly maners and great cruelty of the Duke, that the graue makers obeying his commandmēt, tooke the Priest and bounde him straightlye face to face, & mouth agaynst mouth, with the carcase of the deade, a cruelty truely extreme great & detestable, although that the vice of the Churchman was worthy of punishmente, but not after this fashyon, nor with death, as he punished his offence, what should one expecte at his handes that remembreth no other Justice, then that he fantasyeth in wicked and tyran-

nicall mynde, and what reason should one loke for of him, that detesteth all law, and remembereth no goodnesse at all, hauing no law, but his own wyll, nor other mercy then that which endeth with cruell Butchery, hauing no lesse pleasure then Caligula had to see slaughter, ruine, and effusyon of bloud: When the rest of the Clergye saw him intreate the priest of this sorte, fearing that the fury of the Duke would persue all the companye in lyke order, they threw downe the Crosse, the Sprinckle, & holy water Tankarde, and lefte the Tapers, to take their feete, & saue them from the rage of the Tyraunte, who seeing them run out of the Churchyard so afearde, and wythout order, could not hold himself from laughter, although on the other syde, he hearde the dolorous voyce of the myserable Chapleyn, that they were about to put quick into the earth. Alas my Lord (sayeth he) haue compassyon on me vnhappye wyght, that so humblye requyre you of pardon for my fault, and which promyse neuer to offend you more, & to recompence the widdowe for the small pittie I shewed vnto her. What arte thou no more bolde (sayeth John Maria, being so vnpittifull) that thou arte afearde of the shadowes of them that floate on the Ryuer of Death, and forgetfulnesse, take thou no care for the Widdow, I haue already better prouided for her, then thou haste for thy affayres.

There-

Therefore calleth hee to the others, that they shoulde dispatch, that the good Synger should not trouble him any more with his prayers, the all at once they began to laye downe the two bodyes, to couer them with earth, when as the Priest cryed. Alas my Lorde, if you haue no pitty of the bodye, yet haue compassyon of the saluation of the soule, as much as is in your power, and suffer me not to dye, without confessing my faultes, before some Minister of God, according to the institution of the church. Go, go, sayth the Duke, thou hadst more neede to appeale the Porter of Hell with thy Orations, synce thou canst not get a Priest at thys present, they be all fled away from thee, seeing thee already conuerted into a nightspright, to affray Children in the Churchyarde, and therfore thou shalte be put into the earth, with the absolucyon that thou haste, geue him whom thou imbracest, that may serue for the alegeance of the heape of all thy offences. Wyth such rayling, the inhumayn Prince caused the two bodyes to be cast into the pit, with no lesse abashment of al men, then as a thing that they had neuer seene done before, which thoughte not that the Duke so vnaduysedly, and of such a beastly maner would haue put men to deth, but his lyfe was no lesse detestable, then the lyfe of the Emperour Macrine, who vsed lyke manners, and punished more cruelly then

vnmercifull.

he did, syth the Priest was prest and choked, as well by the smell of the dead bodye, as by the earth that was cast vppon him, the graue being verye deepe, whereas the Emperour wythout pyttye, caused such as hee had condemned, to bee bounde lykewyse to the deade carcases that putrifyed the Ayre, not suffering them to be buryed, but let them so remayne till that eyther by fayntnesse, or stinche of the dead body, and the multitude of Vermyn, they cruelly departed out of this lyfe. Nor more curteous was Maximiniam, who caused such as he hated to be thrust into the empty belly of an Ore, vnto the head, where they ended their misery by ỹ blood that ran out of the beast, but the barbarous tyme, doth excuse these Gallãts that being Pagans, and without knowledge of God, which are not so much to be marualled at, if they did their workes acording to the desyre of the deuill that was their guyde, who is a murderer from the beginning, but a christyan Prynce come of a good stocke, brought vp amongest men of learning, and dwelling in so ciuill a Countrey ought to make the case more straunge, syth that the earth once cryed vengeaunce to GOD vppon Cayne, for that hee had violated the Bright of kynred, in slesing that iust Abell his Brother, I beleeue that within a little tyme after, John Maria for so pernicious a cryme, was slayne by his owne

Citti-

Cittizens, and I thinke that in our tyme there be some that haue made sacrifyce of heads, & other members, & who lyke Diomedes haue caused their Horses to eate the bodyes of men. But I beleeue that God will not leaue suche cruelties vnpunished, although for a whyle he attendeth and is patient in his doinges, yet in the end he wil cause thē to feele the strength of his arme, and to feele the inuytable yre of his iust displeasure.

Now to retourne to the matter, the Duke hauing accomplyshed these Tragical, and sorowful Funerals, he dispatched sodenly one of his men to the house of the Priest, from whēce he caused all his moueables to be caryed, and giuen to the poore wyddow, the wyfe of hym that was dead, with whome the Priest was companyon in the graue. This last sentence was as iust, as the fyrst was vniust, cruell, and horrible, syth it was good reason that he should be punished in hys goods, that for Auaryce and delyre of Money, had forgotten hymselfe, and the duety requysyte in a publique man, such a one as is the Pastoure of a Churche, bee not offended, (you that beare the Ecclesyasticall Offyces) of that whyche I haue sayde, but take Example by the myserable ende of one of your estate, thinking that the persecutions and the euill that God hath sēt you, procedeth of your ambicion,

auaryce, ignorance, and whoredome, I tel you truly, I am sorry for that the aduersarye of the Church suppresseth the good men, & throweth down them that ought to be honored, whereas the foolish, the slow bellyes, the ignorant, & the whoremõgers feele no such scourges, but God which is iust, hath by these meanes called you to repentaunce, because you should acknowledge your faultes, and lyue more Godly then

The Hystory of whome is already set forth excellently by Maister Fenton.

the Abbot Guenfaldo, and this myserable Myser, intreated so cruelly by the moste detestable tyraunt that euer was seene in Italy, syuce the Lombardes gaue the name to that Lande.

(.·.)

FINIS.

¶A Gentleman Myllinois beeing *amorous at the very end of his age,* for the extreame Ielosy of his Concubyne, was cause of the death of his Sonne and of himselfe, and lastly of the vnhappy ende of the Harlot, whiche was cause of all.

AT the time when the french armies were discouered throughout Italy, for the Conquest of Myllayne, causing all the state of the Venetians to tremble, when Lewis the seuenth had brought his affayres in such readynes, that he pitched his Campe euen in the sight of their next Citie, breaking down their walles, and ouerthrowing with the force of his Canons their Towers of defence, that Venis neuer felte any greater, or more mightyer force.

The Venetians not knowing howe, or by what meanes to quyet their bondes, and to appease the displeasure of a King, iustly incensed agaynste their infydelitie and arrogancie, about that tyme (I saye) there was a Gentleman Myllinois, which for the troubles cõming, doth conuay himselfe to a Castle, that hee had before Monse, as lykewyse did the moste parte of them that coulde not brooke the chaunging

of their Lord, or who (as it might bee) were not able to indure the insolencye, and crueltye of the French Souldyers.

This Gentleman of whome I intreate, was a Wyddower, to whome there was remayning onely two chyldren, the one of the Age of seuen or eyghte yeares, the other approaching neare to the age of twentye, the olde man seeing hymselfe wythoute a wyfe, although hee hadde almoste passed the age of threescore yeares, neyther hauing regarde to hys Age, nor to hys approaching death, doeth become amorous of a gyrle, the Daughter of a Messenger, both fayre and well fauoured, of whome hee had his pleasure, by the meanes of the onely Father of the Gyrle, which solde her vnto him.

This is a marke very certayne, to bewayle any man, which we see in his age to become a Father, whose youth hath geuen him no fygne thereof, yet thys is moste detestable that Chrystyans beare the iniquitie of Fathers and Mothers, so vnpudente and euill, as to sell, prostytute, and corrupte their owne Daughters, and commonly the Maiestrates of our tyme wyll see nothing, the Kinges shutte their eyes, they that fayne themselues to be most holy of all the rest, take some Golden gyfte to heare the Chastitye soulde for bargayned sommes, and there is not one

amongest

amongest them all, which punisheth this marchandyse of bodyes, washed by the bloud of him, that through the pryce of hys lyfe hath redeemed vs out of the handes of hym, whyche held vs in bondage, wherefore the Gentiles and Infydels of tyme paste, doe exceede and banquish vs in Justice and politicke doinges, more right then oures, that they haue thereby attayned the glory of punishing faults whyche we behold, endure, and approue, and as executers therof, do glory and prayse them. Unhappy surely is ỹ world, where vyce beres the name of Justyce, and Iniquitye is praysed as a vertue, infortunate is the place where such fauoure is shewed to the wicked, that their infamye is sustayned, and approoued by the moste mightye. But the wycked doe not remember at all, that GOD is in Heauen, regarding and beholding the deedes of men, for to doe Justice one daye, by the strength of his hande, and the inuytable force of his scourges, by whyche (wythout exceptynge of persons) hee indyfferentlye doeth punishe both the faulte of the offender, and of him that fayleth to execute the auctoritye, and the swoorde that God hath put into his handes. But nowe to retourne to our former matter, thys verye lybydynous and wanton olde man, keeping this Gyle at bed and boorde in his Castle, lying ordi- *Lechre.*

narily with her, and chafeth the cold & vnhappy flesh of the vyle Mountayn Satyre, that seketh to contynue that whiche nature doeth deny him, and assayeth to ouercome his own force. The eldest sonne seeing the dishonesty of his father, was sad beyonde all measure, vsing neuertheless such a modestye and vertuous dissimulation, because he would not make sorowfull his father, that hee shewed a better countenaunce to the Vaiyarde, then he coulde well, whome he hated to the death, as well for that she was such a one, as for that he knewe she would be the ruine and shortning of the life of the vnhappy olde man, and also for that hee saw her so fonde and vnshamefast, that one mighte easilye iudge by her, she would not refuse the intertayning of another Captayne, which might furnish her somewhat better, for the old man doth serue onely for the increasing and prouocation of her sensualitie, without power at anye tyme to contente the immoderate wantonnesse, that burned within her mynde, and therfore she thinketh to practyse a combate more lustye and of better hope, which she did, because the olde man was not able to suffice her: Ah insaciable desyres, and depth not to be filled, that is the wantonnesse of an harlot, what detestable euils haue chaunced by these loues, to them that without all shame, haue put all their glory and pleasure in the delightes

lightes and flatteryes of the worlde, onely Sampson, Salomon, and Hercules may giue sure testimony. Now this gyrle as we sayd before, feeling the dimissing of the forces of her louer, doth deliberate to pursue another pray, therefore she impudently casteth her lookes on the sonne of the Gentleman, and in becōming Amorous, shee purposeth, if it be possyble, to make him the Lieftenaunt, and ayde of hys Father, and this she doth not for anye curtesy that was hid vnder the Haggard and ruffick nature, and bringing vp of the rude countrey, but for that she saw the yong man fayre, well proporcyoned of his members, and for that she iudgeth him apte to performe the Chase, in which his father was able to giue but symple attemptes, sodaynly shee ceaseth from her enterpryse, as do the yong Louers, not experte or able ynough to detayne their pray, by and by agayne, she goeth about to shew him al friendship, and familiaritie that she coulde, and often tymes she seeketh hym, fynding him at his booke, where she sheweth euidently the desyres that cause her to pursue him. But the good chyld, neuer thought of such a wickednesse, as well to be chaste of his nature, as for the feare of God, and offending of his father, and for that as yet, hee had neuer bene kyndled wyth loue, nor taken in the trap of worldly follyes: But the Concubyne perceyuing that shee trauayled

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uayled in vayn, thinking to make him vnderstand her desyres by signes, doeth deliberate, (as soone as occasyon shoulde be offered) to manyfest it vnto him by worde, which she dyd one day, his Father being gone to see one of his neighboures, and before she would assaulte the yong man, shee doeth instructe in that myschiefe a Chambermayd her Coseti, to the end that when her perswasyons should fayle, the other myghte supplye her wante, as soone as these eloquente Ieayes hadde prepared themselues, they wente to seeke the Gentleman, whome they founde recreatyng himselfe in the myddest of a great Chamber, the fayre Forrest Nymphe, assysted wyth the keeper of her bed, began to saye vnto him: I knowe not syr what to thynke of you, or to make of your doinges, whiche loued and desyred of any, doe not accoumpte it your parte to recompence them with lyke affections, whyche desyre your acquayntaunce, I thinke surely that you are not so colde, that your hart is not to be attached with any amorous passyon, nor I esteeme you so frowarde that if any fayre dame of what state soeuer she were, would geue you power to cõmand, you would be able to abandon and refuse her. To what purpose saye you this? answereth he, haue you seene in mee any signe of rudenesse or discourtesye towardes any woman that

lyues?

lyues? I tweare vnto you that I (wittingly) haue committed this faulte, for a faulte requyres but amendes. The which thoughte to haue holy gayned, and to imbrace him already within her armes, began to weepe verye tenderly, in saying: Alas syr, I know one that would think her the most happy woman that lyues, if you would amend the wrong which you haue done her, in not making accoumpte of the signes by which she hath assayed to cause you to vnderstande her griefe. I knowe not a woman vnder heauen, (sayeth he) of whom I haue had such acquayntaunce, to know anye signe that shoulde shewe me her priuie affection: And would you haue her dispayre of that (sayeth she) which she seeth also mistaken, you not willing to see any thing in so playne a thing, and not to perceyue at all wherevnto thinges are offered so openlye to the sences of him that is so vnsensible, that hee can not comprehende the meanes and deuyses of the passyonate, and which tasteth not the byands purposed to be discouered.

I vnderstande not thys talke (sayeth hee) if you expresse it not other wyse.

Thys is, then sayeth the Chambermayd that my Colyn is so amorous of you, that if you haue not pittye of her, she is in daunger to end her lyfe myserablye. Amorous of me, sayeth the chaste yong man, is it possyble that

a daughter of her age, should be so vnshamfast and impudēt, as to solocite the sonne, after she hath bene defloured by the father. Auaunte you strumpets, loue such as you be, and go exercise your trompetyes with the Deuils, that may furbisse you according to the heates that so molest you, you shew well the place of your byrth, which was neuer other wyse then infamous and beastly, for who is so foolish to think that an euill tree of it selfe can bring forth good or delicious fruite? Thinkest thou infamous creature, and vyle Dallyarde, that I will be so wicked, as so vnshamefastly to vyolate the bed of my Lorde and Father, how vnlawfull and cōmon soeuer the be? No, no, I haue I thank God the Heauen before myne eyes, towarde the which when I addresse my sight, I behold one God, which doeth vysyte the iniquities of the wicked, and payeth to euery one according to his Iustice and demerytes, I haue regarde to the reuerence that I owe to my father, for else long agone I woulde haue sente thee towardes thy father, which was ỳ Butcher, and the infamous Ministre of thy chastitie, get thee away then from hence, and talke no more to mee of this, else I assure thee, I shall cause my Father to know it, to the ende that he shall holde no longer in his companye, an infection so contagyous as thou, which arte lyke to bee

the

the ouerthrow and ruine of all his house: Hauing sayde so, the good yong man almoste beside himselfe, and greatly abashed, departeth out of the Chamber, leauing the two Flatterers as much ashamed and abashed, as he was angry for their impudent requeſt. Nowe this wanton Concubyne loſeth not her stomache, but day by day ſhee importunately ſueth vnto him by her Colyn: But he remayneth fyme in his opynyon, and although he had no deſyre to reporte it to his Father, yet hee threatneth them ſo well, that they feared he would doe as he sayd, and therefore they addreſt ſuch a treaſon, as you ſhall heare.

The deteſtable Valyarde beholding herſelfe ſo often refuſed, beginneth by lyttle and little, to conuerte the loue that ſhee bare to this yong Gentleman, into a fury and deadly hate, and this inraged enemy increaſed, and tooke ſuch deepe roote in her harte, that ſhe wyth the Chambermayde her Colyn, doth deuyſe the vtter ruine of him, that had ſo foliſhly diſpyſed her, ſo they conſulte togythers, ſhe ſhould complayne to the Father, that his ſonne woulde with force haue violated, and taken his pleaſure vpon her, which being thus concluded betweene theſe two abhominable Furyes, was ſhortly executed. For a certayne tyme after, as ſone as the old man was gone to ſee his lands, lying thereaboutes, theſe vnhappy women ſe-

ing hym returne, euen then began to chaunge their visage, not ceasing to weepe, sygh, and lament, without anye will to departe out of the chamber. The infortunate Gentleman aryued, came into the Chamber of hys Mystris, whome he founde all bewept, accompanyed with her counsellor, who for her parte shewed well that it was for some greate matter that they were so sorowfull. He whyche loued this euill woman more then himselfe, wyllyng to knowe what hys mistris ment, prayed her to comforte her selfe, and imbracing her sorgently, that the false Crocodile, as constrayned to doe so, began to weepe more bitterlye then before, declaring a long fable that myght serue to gyue some coulloure to her accusation, in the ende she sayth. O would God my Lorde that death had taken me awaye the howre before yee wente hence, for I would not by any meanes haue bene the occasyon of that euill whych I see prepared, in accounpting to you the truth of that whyche you so much delyre to knowe, but what wyll it auayle to dissemble that whych in the end will manifest it selfe? I am (vnfortunate woman) the mockery of euery one, & detoyled of all, for that I am the pleasure of your age, but is not this ynough if ye doe not allay to conuert thys simple sinne into a vyce incestious & execrable, this is your vse if I offende my Lord, that forgetting

ting the honour which he oweth to your age, to the reuerence wherof he is bound by the power which you haue ouer him, hath oftetimes required me of loue, within this thre monthe, but what shall I say more. Alas sayth she, weeping bytterly, hee hath sponne a fayre webbe, for this morning as soone as you were in the fyeldes, the Ryba wde, pardon me syr if so I call him, came hyther wyth such a fury, that I feared hee would haue put mee to death, but hee pursued vpon mee a thing more noysome then Death, so that as hee was entrying to force me, and had done it, my forces so fayled to defende my selfe, if this gyrle had not come by chaunce, the presence of whome caused him to forsake his enterpryse.

The olde man hearing such pittifull newes, remayned so troubled and astonyed, that for a good tyme he spake neuer a worde, then breaking his silence, he sayth: And is this possible that he whom I haue more dearely loued then myne owne lyfe, hath so much mistaken his gentlenesse, that he would dishonour the loue of his father. Ah vnfortunate chylde, and I a father greatly to be lamented, syth I am tormented by myne owne bloud, of whome I thought to haue had some greater ioy, then he helde his tongue and sate downe, casting his lokes here & there, with such countenance that a man might iudge the greefe of his mynde to

be more excessyue then his strength was able to suffer, yet sayth he to the Rybawde, I pray thee my friend, tell me the veritie of this fact, to the ende I shall not doe any thing that may hereafter cause me to late to repente. Ah poore and caytyfe woman that I am, sayeth the shameleſſe Vaillyard, I see well that if this trompery of your sonne, had not bene discouered by me, but that by some other it had come to your knowledge, you would haue done such Iustice, that men shoulde haue taken example by me in tyme to come, and nowe syth I haue shewed my selfe so faythfull towardes you, you doubt of my fayth, and esteeme my words for boordes and mockeryes, inquyre you syr of this Gyrle which hath seene all the mysterye, and then doe with me as you shal think good, for I know not well how to liue anye longer here, where men giue such syniſter intertaynmēt to them which serue them faythfully. The olde man examyneth the chambermayd, who playde her part better then her Mistreſſe, and and incenseth the Father so sharpely agaynſte the sonne, that he purposeth to punishe him so greeuously, as the lyke hath neuer bene heard of, rauished then in this extasye of anger, hee speaketh a thousand follies, and was changed into suche a cholet, by the impoysoning of the dangerouſe venime Ielosy, as one distraught and frantick, and remayned in the chamber a

great

great space rolling his eyes in whyteneſſe, grynding his teeth, and saying the dogges paternoſter, inraged agaynſt him, of whome he thought he had receyued ſuch an vnworthy outrage, which during the tyme that this tempeſt boyled within the ſtomack of his Jeleous father, lyke as ſome ſay there is a tempeſt vpon the Pyrenea mountaynes, all the Canicular dayes, and alſo in the deepeneſſe of that Sicilian Ethne: arryued in the houſe in an vnhappy tyme, for the torment tourned wholy vpon him, the drops whereof did reuerberate vpon the infortunate father, who comming into the place where he was, the vapors cauſe of the outrage of this vnhappy fortune, do prouoke him agaynſt his ſonne, who was talking with an honeſt Lady, that lodged within the Caſtle. The Jeleous and inraged olde man fretting with anger, as one preſſed and ouercome with choller, no leſſe then a Bull, compelled through famyne or deſyre of companye, ſeeing the yong man, entered into ſuch a frenſye, that wythout ſpeaking what hee woulde doe, he put his hand to his ſworde, comming toward his ſonne, he ſayth: Ah infamous traitour, is it I that muſt ſeeke the meanes to adreſſe thy rybaudry? By God this ſhall be the laſt inſtaunt of thy lyfe. The yong infaunt hearing the furyous menace of his father, not knowing whereof the occaſyon of his anger

distracted

proceeded, sayth vnto him: And wherefore (yr) are you so out of your modesty? or what is (ye) that I haue done against you: sith you are so extreame rygorous against mee, that to my knowledge, haue neuer offended you. The infenced olde man, became more inflamed by the aunswere of the chyld, saying to him: Ah infamous chylde, canst thou talke so brauely to me for the purgation of thy wickednesse, thou shalt know by (ye) by what I will do, (&) to what end the iust anger, (ye) I haue conceiued against thy impudency and temerity doeth tend: saying so, he rusheth vppon the poore infaunt, that moued not, who seing the bloudy sword of his father to be drawn out of the sheath, (ye) in steede of thrusting him through, doeth prepare him a more sodayne death, for hee was vppon a little planck, that aunswereth to two lodges, which had no barre at the entring, to stay one by, or to serue for the assuraunce of the waye, not remembring for feare of the blow, the perrilous place where hee stoode, he fell immediatelye from highe to the grounde, and hys euyll fortune was so great, that the fyrst part which touched the earth, doth beare sufficiēt witnesse being broken in peeces, (&) shedding his bloud vpon the ground, his head being stroke against a stone sharp in the ende, (&) fastened in the earth, so with hys strēgth at the same instant, he forgoeth both his soule and hys warme bloud,

which

which runneth out both at his nose & mouth, the not only cruell father, but enemy of all humanitie, not contente to see his sonne humble himselfe, & to debase him before his face, thinking that the chyld had fallen by his own will into the dytch, sayth: Thou hast well lopen, for I sweare before God, that thou shalte dye in the payne, out of which thou shalte not escape my handes this day. Alas what pitty is it of a man, after he hath wandered out of the limits of reason? Saule once envyous agaynst Dauid, ful of the spirite of intelligence, had no reason in performing the pursute of one more iust then hymselfe. And by prophane wrytinges, who did moove Eurisius to tormente that subduer of Monsters Hercules? but only wilful malice & inueterate envy: truely where the sin is not very evident, right would that mercy should be preferred before Justice, & it is more prayse for any Maiestrate, who following the diuine clemency, to pardon thinges not very evident, & not so cruelly to exercise the sword of vengeance & rygorous punishment, for it cãnot be other wyse, then ỹ he which exerciseth himselfe in cruelty, shal feele such a torment in hys mynd, that in the end wil cause him to dispaire of his helth, or else to such a sharpe repentance, that the very prick of that opynyon, wyll not cease for the moste parte, wythout accompanying a man to hys buryall, so it chaunced

in this tyrannyous old man, who hauing descended the steppes, to see the recouery of hym that was altogyther vnsencyble, he beheld a spectakle before him, that cauſed him to forget his affection, that he bare to the vnfortunate, who had adrest his body thyther, he seing then the mischaunce of his sonne, lying in such poore order, his head burst in peeces, his body dispearced, and yet styrring, was moued wyth such dolour, that he began to forget his Jelosy and to feele suche a remorse in his intrayles, that cauſed him to detest his fortune, for that he had bene so blynded in his concupiſence. Alas, sayeth he, vnhappye Father, dareſt thou shew thy selfe among any good men, that haſt put to death such and so honeſt a chylde, for the appetyte of so impudent a Pallyarde: Ay my sonne pardon me this offence, for J assure thee that J will make such a solemne amends, that thou shalte haue whereof to content thee, and they whiche suruiue an occaſion to bituperate my fury, and syth this my hart (sayeth he, strykking his breſt) moſt vnhappily hath receyued the pernicious venyme of falſe perſwalyon, whereof thou haſt felte the bitternesſe, it shall abyde the penitence, and thou my body, shalte serue for the gyfte and laſt sacrifyce proceding from me, for the apeasing of the shadow of my sonne, towardes whome J will sende my spirites, to requyre him of pardon, in the obſcure darkeſt fieldes

fieldes of death, and to whome I will lacry-
fyce my wicked, infamous, and vnhappy lyfe, remembrefull
which my sonne being dead, shal be more wea-
ry vnto me, then that darke voyage, or any o-
ther thing that may disquiet mee at al, hauing
sayd so, weeping sorrowfully, he imbraceth the
body of his sonne, and beholding his sword, he dyenge.
sayeth. But go to then, syth his soule is depar-
ted, and his destenye hath taken him awaye,
murder him that hath executed murder, in the
person of him, whome he ought to loue moste.
These woordes ended, moued woyth a spytifull
dispayre, stamping lyke a Lyon, and pricked
forwarde I knowe not of what furye, as a
wylde Boze whetting his Tuskes, after he is
hurte by some mischaunce, reuenging the mis-
chiefe vpon himselfe, in falling on the poynt of
the sworde, which passeth throughe the center
of the hart, he tombleth vpon the corpes of his
sonne, yet warme and styrring, and so sheding
the common bloud of them two, he rendereth vp
his soule to him, to whome hee had so long vo-
wed it, by his wicked and vnpure lyfe. What
harte is there that hauing red this, or in ma-
king rehearsal, but would bewayle the chaunce
and misfortune of this desperate old mã, who
truely had bene excusable in his furye, if the de-
uill had not taken away his sences, and forced
him by the inormitye of hys vyce, and by the
greatnesse of his synnes, to destroye his owne

soule. These be examples that bee set forth for our instruction, to the end that the perill of an other should induce vs to beseech God that hee woulde delyuer vs from the spirite of obstinacy, and awake vs out of that dreame, whiche doth blynd our sences, in following the flattering desyres of our concupiscence, for otherwise it were great pitty to behold the faults which we commit euery houre. This vnhappye man blynded in his sin, forsaking God, neyther acknowledged his Iustice, nor his mercy, experimenteth also the fruits of his infidelity, wickednesse, & obstynacy, leauing behynd him, the memory of his deeds, as wel for the aduertisemēt of al men, as for the imitation, & deterring, not only of the aged, but of all ages, to auoyde the plagues and diuilishnesse of whoredom, which do bewytch and take away the sences of men, the end whereof is death, and punishment in the infernall lake. The newes hereof were dispersed incontynent throughout al the house, so that the rybawd which had adrest this deuise, hauing heard and seene the whole, mooued by her owne offence, & the witnesse which her mynd did beare of her sinne, fearing she should haue Iustyce, if she dyd not immytate the illustryous fact of her detestable louer, so that all afrayd, she runneth to a pit, into which she leapeth headlong, and wherin shee was myserably drowned, a death truly, although it was furious,

rious, yet to good for the punishment of the detestable mallice of a woman, so wicked as shee was, which merited to haue all the paynes togythers, that euer were inuented by men, for the scourge of euil liuers. Thē there was word sent to Milain to ỳ Maiestrate, to inform him, who hauing in examinatiō the chamber maid, that was the ayder of the desperate Dalyard, made her to confesse all the facte, wherefore she was hāged, and her body giuen to be meat to the foules of the ayre, and no lesse was done to ỳ carcases of the two louers, which agaynst all right both diuyne and humayne, had violently come to their ende, and as for the yong man, he was buryed wyth such pompe, as hys vertue did well deserue, & was bewayled of al estates, for the modesty that did apeare in him, by which he hath semed to immitate the Scipions and Fabions, who once liuing with such temperance, haue caused their glorious names to remayne euen to this daye. So always the death of the well liuer is fortunate, for besides that he passeth to the lyfe, whych hath no end, and goeth to inioy the holy and Godly companye of the blessed soules, hee doeth glorify his memory, by the knowledge that the posteritye haue of his vertue, which is so grauen and imprynted in the harts of their children, that neyther Death nor tyme hath power to deface it. Vppon the Tombe of this yong example

of chastity, some good Poet of that tyme made this Epitaph, which insueth, to show that such as he was, ought to be praysed with such Eglogs, and not any of them which haue defyled their lyues with a thousande mischiefes.

LOue and Ielosy, the Vertue and the vyce,
This yong and tender lambe haue caused:
A fathers wrath vniustly for to feele,
By outwarde show of malice falsе deceyued,
And eake who was by foolish raging yre,
And cruell daungerous vice, of wilfulnesse procured:
Whose soule to Heauen and body to the graue,
To Heauen and earth are now by death assured.
Thus hath he chaunged his lyfe, and is not dead,
But liueth with God reioycing in his glory:
That caused him the hauty Skyes t'assend,
And happy to haue before him, of vertue the memory.
Thus being dead, he lyueth without sorrow or greefe,
Therefore thou that passest by, thy teares refrayne:
If enuye doe not cause thee to bewayle the ioy,
And happy state wherein the dead remayne.

Such is the ende commonly of them that louing vertue, auoyde the contrarye, syth the vycyous can haue no greater hart breach, then to see one that will not bee infected with their imperfection. Marke wherfore all wrytinges are so full of deceites, addrest by the wicked agaynst the good, but to the end the vertuous should know on whome to repose themselues, which is the good God that will not suffer a-

ny

ny of his to perrishe, although for a certayne tyme he semeth to haue forgotten them, wherevpon the contrary parte, the wicked doe prosper and flourish as they desyre, vntil the Lord wery of their wickednesse, doth so ouerthrow their doinges, that they which to fore appeared hauty, prowde, and stately, is conuerted into derysyon, and despysed, or else so well weakened, that the very tractes scarcely appeare.

FINIS.

¶ A Mahometan slaue, reuengeth *the death of his Lord, vpon his son* that was the Homecyde, and rendered the principalitie, (being chosen of the people) to him, to whome by righte of Lynage, and succession it did appertayne.

About the yere of our saluatiō 1494. After that Christopher Colombe, wyth the Nauye of the catholick king, Ferdinand, sonne of John Aragon, did dicouer the west Ilandes, not before discouered, that can bee founde remembered by the wryting of any Hystory, eyther auncyent, or new, Lewys Bartheny Bolognois, as he himself recounteth in the vj. Boke of his Nauigations, in coasting by this countrey, for that he would haue knowledge of the naturall things, the maner of the liuing of those straunge nations, and also to get some profyte in passing by Ethiope, he arested in an Ile, the Cayptall town whereof is called, Orme, not distaunte from the ferme Lande, aboue twelue myles, where he beheldе this pittifull Hystory ensuing, of an execrable sonne, and of his crueltye agaynst his aged father, and vpon his bretheren, yet in their infancy in this citty. Then a little before the sayd Bartheny came thyther, the Soulden there, was

was a Lord of the secte of Mahomet, a man very vertuous and gentle for a More and Infydell, almost an hundered yeares olde, he besydes that he was rych in Golde and pearles, syth in that quarter there were found the most exquysyth and fayre Pearles that one shoulde see, esteemeth his age happye, to see himselfe the Father of a leuen sonnes, all lawfullye begotten, the yongest wherof, had better fortune by murther, then good chaunce, as you maye see by this which followeth, for the eldest contrary to the rest, was craftye, subtle, and malicyous, & the most dessembling Dalyard that was in all the countrey, who studyed wyth himselfe dyuers tymes how to become imperious ouer his bretheren, after the decease of his father. But the Souldan had two bondmen that were of that Land, of that rich & famous Monarch of the Indyans, that mē cal Prester Jean, these two Indian slaues were so well affectioned to the doings of their Lorde, that he had made them as rich, as any of his Vassals, and they had so well got the good will of the people by their natyue bounty, & excellente vertue, that euery one doth adorate and prayse them as much, or more as the Prince himself, thus they going about to do good to all men, & to displese none, made no report to ỹ Prince, of that which afterwards was cause of the ruine of some of his subiectes, these two by their pru-

varlett.

dence did keepe sylent the doinges of their ambicious yong Lorde, not for that the Galland did thereby lose the desyre, to doe that afterwardes, which one would not thinke nor beleeue, towarde his father, notwithstanding the good intreatmente that the olde man shewed him, for the nature of ỳ wicked is so peruerse, that the more a man assayeth to obtayn his good will, the more he addresseth his mischiefe, and whetteth his teeth in murder, and enuyous for the exployte of his wickednesse, because his harte is so venimous, and full of poyson, that he cannot indure from executing the thing that is contrarye to vertue, by the daungerous infection of his vyces, as verye well appeareth in this ambicious and cruell tyraunt, which could not indure or attende, till Nature had fynished that, wherof she had begone to approch, and alreadye to attayne the ende, he purposeth not onely tyrannyously to vsurpe the domynyons of his father, but to execute the most detestable acte vpon him, that a man can eyther thinke or ymagyne, that is, to murder them of whome he had his lyfe, and to fyll his handes with the innocent bloud of his Bretheren, and for the beginning of this Tragedy, hee causeth to be imprysoned vnder the tytle of good fayth, his Father, his Mother, and his bretheren, except the yongest, by the ayde and succours of some of the house, as

good

good as hee himselfe, for truely the boldenesse of the wicked is vanished, assoone as it is excogite, if it want companyons to attayne the ende of his imperfectyon.

Absalon had neuer adrest his force agaynst that Myrrour of pacience, Dauid his father, without the counsell of Achitofell, and wythout the ayd of murmurers, that abused the pacyent clemencye of the king. But O good God, what enoume and straunge Tragedyes haue euery one sene in the Empire of the East, that is stayned wyth the bloude of Fathers, shead by the Children, and of the lighte of the children, obscured by the handes of their owne mothers? And in our memorye the onely desyre of raygn, hath caused that at this day, the crueltye of the Vicont Myllinois, shoulde be had in memory, to declare howe many wayes the ambicious do disguyse themselues, to come to the end of their desyres, that I am constrained to say, that our age is so wicked, and so voyde of pittie, that a man shall fynde children that feare not to put to death their fathers by venime, thinking to couer their wickednesse and greeuous fault, by the meanes they be not bounde by any lawe ordayned for Paracydes, agaynst whom neyther Moyses the fyrst, and great lawmaker, nor Solon would establishe any lawe, or make ordynances, assuring themselues, that it were vnpossyble that the chylde

G.iij. could

could be so vnnaturall, as to stayne his handes with the bloud of him, of whose substaunce he hath had his beginning. But to returne to our matter, this wicked sonne being possessed of al thē of this bloud, that he thought could impech the execution of ꝑ which he had taken in hand, he caused their eyes to be plucked out of their head, without exception of father, Mother, or kyndred. O barbarous acte, & very worthy of thē place & countrye, that ingendereth & bringeth forth nothing but mōsters, he which saw the light by ꝑ meanes of an other, stoppeth the way to inioy the same receyued goodnesse, to him by whom he had inioyed his. ¶ His gallād then, not content with this wicked fact, extendeth further to accumulate ryce vpon iniquity, and more & more to set forward their ruine that were almost at an end, for in the chāber where the poore old mā the Soudā his father, accompanyed with his wyfe, did bewaile his misfortune, & torment himselfe for his blyndnesse, the wicked and inraged dog doth thither conduct his. iv. blynded brethren, that by their euil fortune, the might more greeue the olde man, and entering with them, he sayth: Make hardly good cheare togythers, for I wil go to prepare that wherof you shal tast, ꝑ father hearing this incorporate diuel to speake, sayth vnto him: Ah wolf most cruel, and insatiable of the bloud of thy friendes, what hast not thou done vylany ynough

A monsterous and most cruell acte.

ynough

ynough to the most vnhappy olde man in this
worlde, without making him sy to lament, and
to leaue such a memory of thy wickednesse be-
fore the eyes of men. Fynish murderer, execute
thy crueltye, & fulfill the felony of thy hart, go
tyrant. tyrannously inioy the goods of that house, of
which I had made thee (without putting thee
to this pain) ỳ peaceable possessor, but I hope
this shall not be without the great confusyon,
and chastisemente of thy detestable lyfe, for
God is a iust Iudge, that will neuer leaue vn-
punished a treason so great, and a cryme so
pernicious. As sone as the father had fynished
his wordes, a mā could not haue hard the noyse
of thonder in the chamber, so excessiue was the
cry of ỳ pore infants, for to perceiue themselues
in such mysery, and to heare the iust complaint
of their good Lord & father the Soudan, who
did comforte their euill as wel as he could, and
as wel as his owne misfortune would permit
him. But the murderer willing to see an end of
his wickednesse begon, (not to gratify him
which had desyred him) but fearing as long as
his father was in lyfe, the people woulde
ryse agaynste him, and go aboute to slea him,
or else would chase him out of the Ile, as hee
which could not, or myghte not raygne wyth-
out the executing of an acte so abhominable, &
therfore I say at the same hower, he causeth to
be brought a great quantity of wood & fagots,

but the more he
must make him
fraid & sorro
my wife, my so
table & glor

a villany so gr
of blod.

The wyc-
ked Cy-
raunte, al-
wayes in
feare, & full
of suspicion.

into the Chamber of the infortunate blynde
folkes, and commaunded that they shoulde bee
set on fyre, addressing him to the patyentes, he
sayeth: To the ende you may more clearely see
to fynde the way into the countrie, whether I
will send you, I haue prepared this light, which
may conduct you in steede of a guyde, and as
for me (sayth he) laughing, it shalbe a clensyng
of my sinnes hytherto committed, in making a
sacryfyce so cleane, and fayreas Oblation as
I will make of you: Hauing sayd so, he caused
the fyre to be put to their myserable bodyes,
which in the same instaunt, were conuerted in-
to Ashes, and hee deliuered from the care to
haue any man as he thought, that mighte im-
peache his gouernment. But the Tyraunt re-
membreth not at all, that the rewarde of the
wicked, is alwayes pealed in the equall Ba-
launce of Gods Justice, and that they whiche
hope to auoyde the rygour of punishmente by
their owne forces, doe fully experimente the
vengeaunce of the Lord for their owne wic-
kednesse, as afterwards this detestable blood-
sheader did euidently perceyue the ꝛevetable
furye and iust anger of the Almightye for his
wickednesse, whose future fortune caused him
to forget to murder in his former slaughter, the
two Indian slaues, and his yonger brother,
which knowing the myserable ende of all his
blood, sayleth not to conuaye himselfe into the

God the re-
uenger of al
sorong and
iniquitie.

Mosque

Mosque, a place so sacred amongst them, that they thinke it Religion to forbeare to violate them that retyre thyther, to conserue their lyfe, and to defende them from the seuere rygor of the law, in which place then of their deuotions was this poore child, and yong Prince remayning, as the future Reuenger of this tyranny, crying with a high voyce, and without intermission: O good Lorde, good Lord, beholdest thou not at all, how my Brother hath chaunged himselfe into a Dyuell, the Father of all wickednesse, and hath taken vppon him the manners of the enimy of all humanitye? Alas wylte thou suffer the bloude of my Parentes and Brethren to be shed innocently, and that the sonne shall remayne without vengeaunce? Hath not the flame and the smoke stopt and taken away the voyce of them that requyred thee of Justice, for the greeuousnesse of their torments? Behold, O mighty God, and vysyte the synfull lyfe of this Tyraunt, who dispysing thee, hath depryued them of lyfe, by whome thou gauest him his throne in this world; and surely the iust color of the yong Prince, against the furyes of his Brother, had no lesse taken awaye his sences, then was once the chylde wanting his speech, or the sonne of the Lidian Cressus, beholding his father in daunger of death, during the sacke of the Towne, by the great army, and souldyars of the Monarch of

the Heades. But the measure of the iniquities of this Baracyde, was not yet come to the fulnesse and ende, which duting these things, made the people to vnderstande the death of the murthered, pronouncing moreouer, that if they weare aboute to refuse to obay him, hee knew well how to proceede to compell them. The people seeing him wel accompanyed, and that he was wholy seased of all the fortresses, craftely and wittingly, submitted themselues willingly to his obedience. O Beast of manye heads, thou shewest well that in the foule fantasy of such a multitude, reason, equity, or prudence, can haue no place, and surely the contynuall waues that cause the Seas to ebbe and flow, haue not so many motions and troubles, as the counsel and opinion of a multitude hath deliberations, for there needes but the interpositon of one day, and the rest of one nighte, to ouerthrow all that hath bene afore concluded, and all the choyse of opynyons will be cast to the ground, by the blast of a simple sedition, and folly of the people, the counsell of whome are more gouerned by temeritie, & sodayn motion, then by reason and sage foresight of that which may come after, neyther the constrayned obedience of this multitude, nor the force of his Souldyors, that were wholy weary of his prowde and cruell Tyranny, nor yet the inexpugnable strength of his fortresses could impeche

impeche that which the diuine prouidence had ordayned for the punishmente of the factes of this wicked creature, who loued better to raygne one Month alone, then a long time after the decease of his father reuerenced of the people, beloued and serued of his bretheren, and not punishable by the iustyce of men, beholding nor feeling his mynde guiltye before GOD, by the conscience of his owne mysdeedes. Marke how he himselfe made the net wherein he was intangled, and whetteth the knyfe whereon he myserably ended his lyfe. You haue heard how the two Indian slaues were retourned into their owne houses, after that the fury of this Afrycan Nero, had shed forth his poyson, and that his brother lyued with the Priests of their law, bewayling continually both his Parents and his misfortune to see himselfe so weake and vnfauoured, that he could not reuenge the death of them, that being dead, caused his sorrowfull lyfe, and the absence of whome, made him so vnprofytable in all thinges, and so vnhappy in all his deuyses.

The Tyraunt then as it might be, or as it is more true, wearye of hys lyfe, coulde no longer auoyde that whiche the heauens had ordayned for the iuste punishmente of hys vniustyce, and demerytes, delyberatyng now wyth hymselfe, to take away the light

from the eyes of the two aged Indian slaues, which he could not commodyously do, as well for the reuerence that the Souldyors bare to this lincked couple, as for that he knewe they were wel beloued, and cherished of the people, wherfore he purposeth a newe treason, to bring his desyre to passe, without any slaunder, and without incurring the euill will of the people, and of his great armye, that is, in practising the one to be the murtherer of his companyon, and afterwardes to punish ỹ murtherer according to the law, & his deserts, therfore he causeth the more ancyent of thē, named Mahometh, to be called vnto him, who being come to the presence of the Souldā, saith vnto him: It hath pleased your noble maiesty, my Lord, to cause me to be commaunded to come before you, to whome I am obedient, being here readye to imploye my selfe to any iust acte, wherin it shall please you to vse my diligence and loyaltye, which I haue so well shewed, & with such integritye, during the lyfe of the former Souldan your Lorde and father (whome the great Prophet Mahometh feedeth this daye with delicious Vyands in Heauen) that there is no man which can reproche me in any thing that maye in anye wyse denigrate my name. That is the onely cause, sayeth the Tyraunte, wherefore I haue caused thee to come before me, assuring my selfe, that thou wilt be no lesse

at

at my commaundement, then thou hast bene obedient to the pleasure and will of my predecessor, I will that thou vnderstaunde further, that if thou shalt serue me faythfully, in that wherein I will imploy thee, thou shalte not repente thee of the deede, for beſydes the pleasure I shall receyue of thy seruyce and indeuour, thou shalte obtayne a Prince so much thy friend, as thou canst or wouldest deſyre. My Lord, sayth the slaue, not for any hope of ryches, being so terrestryall a thing, so vayne, and of so small duraunce, I will go aboute to attempte anye thing, neyther to see my self exalted to honours and dignityes, (syth this is the Chayre wherein men are most daungerously placed) but you shall beholde me ready prepared to execute all your honest deuyses, onely for the reuerence I owe you, as to my Lorde and Prince, whyche I trust will not commaunde anye thing, that without stayning myne honour, and blemyshing of my conscience I cannot execute. Then the slaue thought that the Tyraunte woulde haue geuen him in charge, to haue fetched the yong Prince out of the Mosque, to the end, to cause him feele his cruelty, whiche the good man woulde not haue done for feare of death, nor to haue bene Emperour of all Africa, as he afterwardes shewety by effecte. Be as it may be (sayth the cruel Souldā) it is that I would haue thee put to death Caime, for so was the o-

ther Sclaue called, sythe he hath done me such a displeasure, that if I see not his death, my spirite cannot liue in rest, or contentment.

Ah my Lorde, sayeth Mahometh, commaunde me any other thing if it please you, for my harte will not suffer mee to see his death, much lesse to kil him, whome I loue as myne owne lyfe, and wyth whome I haue bene brought vp euen from my byrth, if hee hath done any fault agaynst you Lordship, let hym be accused publiquelye, according to the custome of the countrey, to the ende hee may receyue punishment, according to hys desertes.

The Soudan (dissembling his deceyte and choler) aunswereth hym very courteously: I am glad that I haue such a seruaunte in my power, as thou art, & I thanke thee for thy good aduertisement thou hast giuen me, concerning my duty to iustice: Moreouer, thinke ỹ all this that I haue sayd vnto thee, is to no other ende but to assaye thy constancye, and make a proofe of thy fydelitye, thou mayest therefore departe when thou shalte thinke it good, and hereafter I will imploye thee in some better thing, and of greater importaunce. The slaue whiche knewe the venyme of the Serpente, and how deadly it was, fayled not after hee was retyred, to garde hymself from the bushments and treasons of the Tyraunt, perswading him selfe that he would assaye that agaynste him,

wherein

wherin he had fayled agaynst his companion, and in that his opynyon deceyued him not, for as sone as he was departed from the presence of the Souldan, the Tyraunt inraged and inbenimed, sent to seke Cayme ỳ other slaue, vnto whom he vseth like wordes, as to the first, & perswadeth him so wel, ỳ the wycked Moore sweareth vnto him to kyll his companyon, in what sort he could. Behold whervnto the execrable mallice of men doth extēd, that through the appetyte of a pernicious Tyraunt, the one friend hath coniured agaynst the lyfe of him, that a little before, had refused to make hym to lose his owne. But alwayes the wicked (what frawde so euer he doth excogitate) falleth into the pit, that he hath prepared agaynst him, that doubteth nothing of his treason, and corrupted harte.

This venerable slaue, then hauing the commandment of the Souldan, he departeth, minding to murther Mahometh, to gratifye hys Lord, who moued by the couetousnesse of that which the Suborner doth promyse him, & by the obediēce which the subiect oweth to his soueraygn, & without thinking what is the nature of the tyrant, who pleased with discords, searcheth nothing but to imbrue himselfe with the bloud of his Citizens, and who in the ende exerciseth his cruelty vppon them, that haue bene the ministers of his misdeedes.

Cayme then without feeling any remorse of Conscience, that might haue withdrawn him from his purpose, came towardes Mahometh his Companyon, who had not so little aduyse-ment, but in his hart he perceiued the matter, & began to doubt of that, which was true, and hee helde himselfe more assured, when as hee beheelde the murtherer more nearely, whyche by the couler of his vysage, gaue sufficient apparence of an acte not common, that he would commit: for all the passions and motions of the spirite, I know not howe, by some naturall meanes are euidently knowne, eyther by the face, voyce, or exteriour gestures, for the face is the porte of the harte, manifesting the will and secrete desyres, that one would assay to keepe secrete, therefore Mahometh addressing himselfe towardes him, sayth: Ah false murderer, and disloyall traytor, what? wilte thou goe about to execute that, whych the Tyraunt hath wickedly commaunded thee, and thou hast lyghtly agreed vnto; nowe I wil take such reuenge of thy Corpes, as I haue bene requyred tofore, that men a long tyme hereafter shall speake of it through all these Ilands. Cayme that knew the humor of his companyon, addresseth himselfe towardes him, as well for that he knew him to be a valyaunt and hardy couldyor, as for that he would not auow anye matter agaynst him, he casteth himselfe at his

feete,

feete, yeelding into his handes his sworde, praying him to pardon this faulte, that he had attempted, more for feare that the tyraunt would haue slayne him, then for any desyre of hurte or euill will that he bare to Mahometh, who answereth him. Whereof thy fault more dooth I am not ignoraunt, but thou couldest not by any thyng haue better shewed or more euidently manyfested thy disloyaltye, whiche if it had taken such deepe roote in my spirite, as thou yt hath. hast receyued, and taken it into thy perjured harte, thou mayest assure thy selfe, that long agone thou hadest bene dead, the Tyraunt satisfyed, and I without a companyon, and as it might haue bene without lyfe, syth this Tyraunne in pursuyng the death of the one, desyreth the total ruine of us both togethers, but it hath pleased God that no treason should enter into the myndes of Mahometh, and that he shoulde finish the course of his age without reuenging the death of his Lord, and like wyse the wrong that without his deserues, hath bene purposed against him, therefore Cayn, go towarde the Soudan, and tell him that thou hast executed that which he commaunded thee, and for the rest let me alone, for I will prouyde such a remedy, that in tyme to come, the lyues of the vertuous shall be in more assuraunce, then nowe they be in perill, vnder the tyrannicall gouernment of this Infidell, whome by Gods help, I

to kill manfully for his wickednesse, and reuenge (with a publike iniury) the wrong that he hath done to all the inhabitaunts of this Ile.

Cayne hauing escaped from such a daunger, promyseth hym to doe all, that it should please hym to giue charge to execute, whyche was to his great preiudyce, for after that he had tolde the Tyraunt how he had bathed his swoorde in the blood of Mahometh his companyon: The Tyraunte full of ease, and contentemente, began to showe hymselfe more familyer, then comming cheerefully to imbrace hym, his comming was no more ioyfull to the poore slaue, then was that of Ioab to the two Princes of the great Hebrue Trumpes, Abner, and Amasa, (yeth he holding his lefte arme imbraced and infolden about his necke) taketh into his other hande a short Dagger, wherewith hee stabbeth the poore slaue so far into the syde, that he vomiteth streame dead, at the feete of his false and trayterous Lorde. This is the happie ende of the wicked, that cannot at all escape the strength of Gods hande, either by the iniuitey of me, or by the cruelty of cruell beastes, and sometymes by thinges without lyfe or sences, prepared neuertheleste for the exployte of suche punishmente, as once the tree was the instrumente of Adams, whereon he was hanged by the hollemen, and slayne by the handes of Ioab. But now the Soudan thinking to re-

ioyce

ioyce himselfe for the death of the two slaues, whom he so much feared, not hauing well put vp his greue, and returned to his seat: Behold Maheumeth very well accompanyed, and armed at all poynts, comming at whose arryuall, the maine parte of the Souldyers began to be in a fury, the others laying a way the right of armes rendered them to his mercye, but he which sought the chiefe, made no staye or great accounpt of them: Thus entring in to the chamber, where he beheld the stretched Coppe of Layne, and where yet was the Emperour, with a small company, who seeing Maheumeth, although hee was surpryzed with feare, seeing him in such array, yet making a verye of nereshyp, comming to incounter with him, sayth: Ah Villayne, sonne of a villayne, art thou yet liuing? Yea (sayth Maheumeth) I liue in despight of thy Menaces, and false inuentions, ready to send thee to all the diuills, to serue for their pray, trusting in God he will geue me strength to reuenge vpon thee (most disloyal of al traitors) the death of thy innocent parentes, of whome thou hast bene the inhumayne bloodshedder. In saying these woordes, & putting their handes to their weapons, they ioyned togythers, and although the Souldan defended himselfe alwayes verye brauely, yet the slaue, a man very strōg, braue, hardy,

hardy, and alwayes brought vp in warres, and who for his good deede had the ayde and fauour of the God of that Coast, acquyteth himselfe so well, in lesse then an howe [illegible] that the Tyraunt was able no longer to suppoꝛte the strength of the blowes of Mahometh, but in the ende, began to declyne towarde the earth, the flame by little and little became victoꝛyous setting his shield vpon his throat, to make him to peꝛish himself, which being done, he causeth him to be streightly bound, and deliuered vnto the people, who sodaynly rente him into a hundred thousand peeces, so that he was not esteemed to be the child of a good mother, that had not done some iniury to the carcases of the miserable tyraunt. O iust iudgemente of God, he that before neuer thoughte himselfe ynough worshipped of his subiectes, is now slayne by their seditious handes, to the ende that euerye one shoulde euidently peꝛceyue, that goods vniustly gotten, alwayes geue the salary of their vnthrifte to the greedy deuyer, the violater of right, and of all religion. After the death of the Soudan, they made diligent inquisytion of the complices, and executers of his cruell murders, who being accused and conuicte, were ryghtfully punished, according to their lawes and ordinances. The people perceyuing themselues so bound to Mahometh, for that he had beene the deliuerer of all their Countrye, and

the

the punisher of such an offence, which they dissembled by contraynt, gaue vnto hym the gouernment of the Ile, and woulde absolutelye haue inuested hym in the seignory. But the sage olde man knowing verye wel both the inconstancy of fortune, and the vndurable good will of a multitude, and not ignorant also, that he which vnder the tytle of good fayth, occuppeth the goods of another, cannot choose otherwyse, then engender the ruine of his successours, and commonly giue cause of his infamy and totall dishonor, therfore hauing set the affayres of the Ile in good order, hee causeth vpon a day, all the estates of the countrey to be called in counsell, before whome he made this Oration.

The Oration of Mahometh.

There is none of you my good Lords which are ignorant, that I was borne in this your Iland, and much lesse of the blood and race of them which ought to raygne ouer the people, I haue bene brought vp, and nourished as a slaue in the Court of the former Souldan, father of this wicked parracyde, of whome, and vpon whome, you haue taken condigne vengeance for his wickednesse, I beseech you refer all that which I haue done, or yet shal do, to the honour and obedience of the vertuous deceased Lord, and to the memory of those goods, which I haue receyued of him, and also to establish and pacifye the Seignory, to the

yongeſt ſonne of hym, who as you knowe is fugitiue in the Moſque, ſith the day that his brother the Tyraunt, made the horrible ſlaughter of them of his blood, I therefore am of thys mynde, if you alſo ſhall thynke it good, that the ſucceſſyon, he being of the right ligne, ſhoulde be by you rendered vnto him, for I haue not at all purpoſed to vſurpe anye Lande from the ſonne of him, to whoſe name during my lyfe, I haue borne ſuch honour, as the ſeruaunte to his mayſter, and the vaſſall and ſubiecte to his Lorde. Therefore I reſygne and rempt into your handes the ſupremidence, whyche of your good wils you haue giuen me, both ouer you, and ouer the Landes of my Lorde, and your Prince, vnto whome by your meanes, I maye ſerue to gyue counſell in all his affayres, by which if hee will gouerne himſelfe, I will aſſure you, that you ſhall vnderſtande you haue ouelye chaunged a man, and not a vertuous and gentle Prince, alwayes thanking you, for the amitye and good affection which you haue borne me, which if God gyue me lyfe, I hope to ſatiſfye, by all kynde of humanitie and duety of a good friend, and as an obedyent ſeruaunt of your communyaltye.

The people abaſhed of the vertue and continencie of the good olde man, who forſaking the honours vnto which their election had called him, louing better to lyue a pryuate lyfe,

then

then to enioye a whole countrey, wythout hauing full ryght of pollesyon, doe easily accorde to the counsell and sage opynyon of Mahometh: So the yong Prince was fetched from the Temple, and placed in the seate of his father, wyth thys condicyon, that hee should haue alwayes the olde man for allyssaunte and counceller, and by whose handes shoulde passe all the affayres of importaunce, that might chaunce wythin the Ile.

Beholde a notable and rare example of two great extremities in the vertue of one man, the assuraunce and Magnanimitye to reuenge a publique iniurye, vpon one that of him selfe was publique, if by his vyce he had not made himselfe more abiect, then the leaste of the common and popular multytude, and the modestye conioyned wyth great reason and foresyght, to pesyle that, wherefore almoste all tirantes in thole dayes doe take and adresse, for what occasyon soeuer it bee, the bloody battayles, profayning the sanctitude of Religyon, peruerting the order of iudgementes, reduslyng and rendyring all thinges into wynd, and adnychylatyng the charity that euery one oweth to hys Neighboure, for wyth a huge heape of sinnes & curses they attayn their Lordships, and within a whyle they forget the effusyon of bloud of the good cittizens, & not appeasing the incursyons

that in the end they ouerthrow themselues, as is the flower by the heate of the Sonne, in his full force; and as was lately seene in the tyrannous rule of the Mytilnois of our tyme, and once in the raygn of the Persians and Greekes, the Monarchie of whome, was lyke a flame, that vanisheth away quickly, as did their dominyons, after their establishement.

FINIS.

¶ The

¶ The Marques of Ferraria, without hauing regarde to fatherly loue,

causeth his owne Sonne to be beheaded, for that he was found in Adultery with his faire Mother in law, who lykewyse lost her head in Pryson, by his commaundement.

IN the lyfe of Phillip Vicont Duke of Mylayne, sonne of John Galeas, he so often made warres against the Florentynes, and their Lyne, then raigning in Fraunce, Charles the seuenth, that good King, which chaled the Englishe men out of Normandye, the moste excellente and myghtye Prince, Nicholas of Este, the third Marques of Ferraria (he that for his singuler wysdome had bene sente so often as Arbitrator, to determyne the controuerlyes, that chaunced amongest the Princes of Italy) made warre against hys owne Cosyn, called Azzo of Este, which with the ayde of the Venetians, Florentynes, and Bolongnoys (although he were a bastard) did chase the sayd Azzo, lawful and iust successour of the Marquisdō, out of Italy, & constrayned him to ende his dayes in exyle, in the Ile of Candy, auncientlye called Create, & he because Ferraria was obedyent vnto him, as vnto an

vniust vsurper, doth gouern them so politickly and traym the people so gently, that neuer any of his predicessors liued more quyetly, he being confyrmed in his estate, espouseth in his fyrste marryage, the daughter of the Lorde Frauncis of Carrarya (after y Lord of Padue) by whom he had one sonne, which at his christning, was called Hugnes, the beawty & phisnomy of whom did promise some future dexterity & excellency in him, this is he of whom I intend most to intreate, as chiefe cause of the discription of this hystory, he was surnamed by the pleasure and will of the Father, the County of Rouigo, and kept with such care, diligence, & study of them that had the charge ouer him, as did appertain to the Child of such a Lord as he, which commanded ouer Ferraria. Certayne dayes after the birth of this yong Prince, the Marchioues his mother departed this lyfe, to y great greefe of her husband, which loued her no lesse, the his own self, & to the displeasure of all his subiects that wholy had tryed such curtesy, gentilesse, & liberallity to be in her, as whose lyke memory hath not left ingrauen in the harts of y posterity, this yong Prince as he growes in yeres, giueth such testimony of his future vertue, & wisdome, that a man should fynd a few Lordes of such a race in all Italy, that did excell him, so much are they in fault, that suffer theselues to be ouercome, if that fortune had not giuen him

such

such a time, as the moreste of his yeres did forbid it in him, wherby had giuen such a beginning to his honor. But what if the affections of men doe ebbe and flowe, and neuer continue in one state, as the vnquyet mouing of the sea, it is no other wyse of the iudgementes and ordinances of God, whereof there is not one left vndone, without coming to the end, ordained by the prescience of him, for the ende of the county could not be euil, as euery one thought, by the coniecture of the vertue of his young yeares, but beholde the ende.

This Marques Nicholas being very yong & lusty, after the death of his wyfe, deliberating with himselfe not to marry again, beginning so well, as he had the euil will of none of his neighbours, to take his ease, and to passe his tyme in such delightes, that euery nighte he changed his pasture, and continuing his wantonesse, doth his endeuour so wel, that the troupe of his Bastardes were not inferiour in number to them that were begotte by the nine patron of Troy, a litle before ye Greeks did besiege it, and to the end that the hystory shal not wat any thing, which shuld serue for the successe of that I wil set forth, touching the misfortune of ye cousin of Rouergue, the sonne of Nicolas. There was remaining to ye said Marques no other child to succede him lawfully begotte, but Lionel ye eldest of the Bastards, after who

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was that famous and renowned Lord Borze, the sonne of a Damsell Genoyis, of the house of Colomey. This Borze for his vertue, and for that he had done some seruice to the Romayne church, was created and erected in the Dukedome of Ferrania, by Paule the second of that name, Bishop of Roome, then raigning in France Lewis the leuenth, and Frederick of Austryge, holding the imperiall Crowne, by whome afterwardes the sayde Borze, was proclaymed and made Duke of Rege, and Modena.

But returning to our purpose, the Marques hauing now long tyme lyued wythoute a lawfull wyfe, was desyred, as it myghte be, of some of his subiectes, to perswade himselfe to ye mariage, who practised so well, that he maryed to wyfe, the Daughter of the Lorde Charles Malateste, which because hee was puissaunt & of great Lands, might command ouer many Cityes and Villages of the Marches, and Romayne, who had the name to be one of the moste braue and sage Captaynes amongest all them that professe the Arte of warre in Italy in his tyme. A little after the Marques, who although his wyfe were very beautifull, young, and of excellent good spyrite, yet old, lefte not to haunte lighte women abroade, that it was thoughte hee had taken a wyfe, more to satisfye his friendes, or to couer

his

his wanton and effeminate will, then for to chasten himself, and to increase and multiplye his race, which was the cause that God for his punishment sent such a slander into his house, worthy surely to be noted, as well as it is strange & possible, if the memory thereof were not fresh, it would seeme after incredible, for the pacience of God is such, that he attendeth the conuersyon of the synner, but seeing hym indurate in his wickednesse, doth punishe hym so sharpely, that the generations ensuing, doe beholde the sharpenesse of the punishmente, and marke wherefore that good Christ, second to none in pacience, doth so diligently set forth examples, to shewe that there shalbe no synne lefte vnpunished in the presence of the Lorde, for what greater ruine can come to the house of any Prince, then the dishonour of him, or his: no what greater sorrow, thē to see the shedding of his owne blood: and it is alwayes the Justyce of GOD, to practise that vpon them, whych committe their disobedience, accumulate euill vpon euill, and prouoke the Lorde by their wyckednesse, as did this Marques, the wyfe of whome, seeing herselfe so despyted, as shee that presumed one mouche of her beawtye, could not so greatly commaund her constancye, nor so well moderate her affections, but that shee dyd complayne her to a Damsell, whome she had brought with her forth of her country,

and whome shee trusted very well, who being one day in the chamber of her mistresse, seeing that in secrete she was sad beyond measure, & that dayly shee waxeth worse & worse, was so bold to say these, or like wordes vnto her. Madame, I beseech you think it not strange, if the desyre that I haue to do you seruice, doe make me so bold to demand of you the cause of so sodayn change ẏ I perceyue in you, whiche had wont to be the only solace, of the anguishes & sorrowes of my Lord your father, by your pleasantnes, if perchance there happened vnto him any greefe, & now you do nothing but sorrow, sigh, & complayn: I beseech you Madame, if euer I haue done any thing in your seruice, that merriteth recompence, to do me this pleasure, & honor, to tel me ẏ occasion of your disquietnes, to the end ẏ if this power that is in me, may do any thing for your contentment, I wil imploy it with the life ẏ I haue vowed so long time, to be obedient to your commandments. Alas my friend, say the Marchones, I am ashamed, being such a one as I am, so to torment my self, beholding me so contened of my Lord ẏ Marques: I assure thee, that if the hope of some allegeance did not comfort me, thou shouldst behold what I acrylyce: I would make of my life to the crueltye of him, that hath made more account of one of these common & despised women, then of me that am his wyfe, & not inferiour in beawty to any of them. What Madame? answereth

answereth ỳ Damsell, haue you no other cause to disquiet your self, then the foolish loue of my Lord the Marques, truly this is a very small occasyon, & a cause more then fryuolous to vex your selfe, lay away al this from you, & assay to line ioyfully with them that loue & esteme you, attending til time shal cole his ardẽt desyres, & cause him change his affectiõ, take good heede that he haue no cause of miscõtentment, for to quite him of his passions, apprehensions, & vnseemely companyes, in the meane time, ioy you only of ỳ which is yours, not vsing such foly as to stain your honor, by vnlawful acquaintance with any other then of him, which is giuen you for Lord & Espouse, with shortning of your life for suche a foolishe mistrust, proceeding of that euill Ielosy. O God (sayth the Marchyones, all bedewed with teares) how true is that, which euery one speaketh in a common Prouerbe: the whole cã easily giue councel to them that be sick: Ah my friend, if you felt the disquietues that wil not suffer me to take any rest in my mynd, & the cause of the bitternesse ỳ doeth bereue me of my sences, I am assured that hauing pittye of me, thou wouldest councell mee of an other sorte, or else helpe to execute that, which shoulde serue for the intyre solace and contentmente of my spirite: the Marques hath led this lyfe a long tyme, and it is impossible that hee shoulde chaunge, but by death, or extreme age, and in the meane tyme I passe

my tyme in vayn, accompanyed without comforts, that procures me to ouerpasse the night with teares in steede of rest, and the daye against my will, I am merry to contente hym, that shewes me no pleasure, no not that which he oughte by the sacred rightes of those bands which haue cõioyned vs togyther, would God death had take away my lyfe in the Cradle, to the end that not remayning vnto this present, I should not haue felt of what force is the despighte of an honest Ladye, being deceyued by her husbande: Alas, howe happye are they of base condition, that may wythout great conscience maculate their blood, that doth redound but to the shame of a fewe: Ah honor and Nobilitie, howe tyrannously doe you byde the Ladyes, that how much the preferment is before men, the estate of all should not be alyke, to the end, that the people should not shadow our brightnesse, more then the renown of the common sorte of men and women, which dye with the memory of their deedes, that are buryed in the same tombe wyth their bodyes, or if the Lawes did as well punishe the disloyaltye of the husband as the symple women, that by a natural byas, are sometymes forced to forget themselues, euen till they bee ouercome by the appetytes of the flesh, how ioyfully would I reuenge my selfe of the iniury which that perfured and vnlouing husband hath done to me:

because

because that euery couple should equallye receyue the payne and punishmente according to their demerites. But after the Lawes were made, they were Tyraunites ouer vs, the inquyetors of our rest, and the common Ennymyes of our perfection, who did anthoryse them without the ayde, helpe, or consente, of any of vs: After that she exclaymeth, as one halfe inraged, saying wyth a voyce that declared the vehemencye of her torment, and the mutacyon of her mynd. But syth I must dye a thousand tymes, if so be I let this passe without punishmente, I would he wel knew it, that I intend not to lyue wyth such griefe and sorrow, as he hath geuen me cause a good tyme, and then let chaunce what may, for this is a torment great ynough, as I beleeue, to abyde such a Tyranny, and to feele the pullsaunte pyckes of loue, the better whereof is no lesse to bee wyshed, then death, hauing sayde so, the Marchiones holdeth her tongue, attending the aunswere of the Damsell, who hauing a long tyme bethought her selfe, aunswereth in this sorte: Madame, as yet I neuer had experyence of what might the force of loue is, and by that meanes I haue neuer felt what is the disdayn and sorrow of them, that perceyue themselues deceyued of him, of whome she ought to bee the intyre and onely beloued, yet I beleeue neuertheless, that the passion both of the one and

the other is so great and vnmeasurable, that the surplusage of the alterations that trouble & greeue the spirite, are nothing in respect of this inexplicable distresse. The argument of this, I take of you Madame, the Constancye of whome is so troubled, by the outrage and fury of Jelosy, that heretofore hath neuer giuen suspition of chaunge, or miscontentmente of harte: But O God, I beholde and perceaue the imbecillity of humayn myndes, & how well they are disquieted of dyuers & vnlawfull desyres, which take rest no more in the stomacke & thoughts, then the sea Sandes, instate with a whyrle wynde, in an extreame hote daye. Ah Madame, where is the great Chastity y made you once renowned before al the Ladies of Italy? I beseech you alway to contayn your selfe in that honest reputation wherin hytherto you haue lyued, to the great contente of your Parents & friends. What? if reason haue so little force in you, that you deliberate to folowe the lyfe of wantonesse, and to search another for the accomplishment of your desyres, then the Marques your husband, by all meanes do the thing so secretly, that the house wherto you are come, receyue no dishonour, and your selfe neu rife infamy & greuous punishment. The Marchioness answereth nothing to the sage admonition of the yople Damsel, beginning to thinke with herselfe, not by what meanes she might

withdraw her husband from the disordered wanton lyfe that he led, but rather how we shee might reuenge her selfe, and with whome shee might giue him counter change, in punishing him by the same faulte. But reason doeth not extend her selfe to this end, that sinne and vertue should be placed alyke, for vertue is the superlatiue aboue her, contrary, which is put vnder her as a subiect, for the instruction of anye that knowes not what is vyce, let him take heede it fall not out otherwyse, that if any bee forgetfull of his honesty and voyd of good maners, we by his example, launche not forth and let slip the bridles of our harts after vice, as after some rare and precious thing, and alwayes thys is so well practyced at thys day, that men esteeme vyce but by the syghte of them that doe it by example. Doeth or maye thys come before the place of Equitye and righte? and meryte no reprehensyon, of this you may well assure your selfe, by the foule deliberation of this wilfull Dames, whyche doeth suffer her selfe to bee so blynded by her noughtye and vnruelye appetytes, that doe peruerte the common order and righte of nature, which the lawes hath constitute amongst men for the reuerence of blood, persons, and ciuill honesty: becommeth extreame amorous of him, whose wanton toyes, oughte more to feare her, then the memorye of Death himselfe. I haue declared beefore that the

Marques had one onely Sonne by his fyrst wyfe, a goodly Gentleman in perfection, and which during these furies of his faire mother, was attayned to the age of eyghteene or twenty yeares, it was he of whom the second Phedra became amorous, but this was not hee that deserues to be put in the vertuous Role of Hypolytus, the sonne of the Amalo, in resisting the amorous folly and incest of the Marchyones, happy was that Greeke heyre, for he dyed by the iniust displeasure of his father, whyche was no shame to him at all, hauing left, in that whiche the other did, that hath giuen sure testymony of his loue to vertue and modesty, but the other hath made his hyee and naughty wil knowne to his owne Father, as you maye easily percepue in the readyng of thys Hystorye, nowe this yong Prynce seeing himselfe intertayned very familyarly by his mother in law, that tooke no pleasure, but in the contemplation of the bewty and good grace of the county, did neuer thinke that suche disloyaltye coulde lodge in the harte of his fathers wyfe, & therefore he deuiseth to requyte it her, but with such reuerence as the Chylde oweth to the mother, whych she taketh not for any denyall, hauyng a desyre of a more strayghte familliaritie with him, whych the more she desyreth, the more she is inflamed in her former flames of loue, and doing her diligence so well, by her owne selfe,

because

because that the yong man, for that he as yet had not practysed loue, knewe not howe to take heede to her countenances, sygnes, wanton lookes, syghes, and vnperfyte wordes, that to one more subtil, might easily haue discouered her passyon, shee forgetting and despysing both her honour and lyfe, (if the Countye had made the reporte thereof to his father) doeth deliberate to discouer vnto him her affections, for, (saying to her selfe) howe shall I cure my aleadged euill, if I keepe it secrete from him, of whome I intende my saketye, is this the way? to deuyse the occasyon of familyer curtesyes, that I doe vnto hym, truely his tender youth doth denye him to see so well, and to know the most difficult humour, which were ynough for a man that perceyueth the deuyses of the mynde, well if hee were so subtle and expert as to perceyue it, yet his shamfastnesse intermingled wyth feare, woulde let him to attempte that, whych I desyre so much, and (as it may be, he will not refuse mee) therefore I will be the fyrst that shall expell this feare and bashefulnesse that so impeach my ioye, syth it is I that haue felte the amorous flames, and suffred the pyckes of the sharpe Arrowes of Cupido, I hope that although the enterpryse be great and daungerous, hee will not refuse me, and that if my great bewty cannot moue him, if my ardent and fine inuytements can-

not kyndle the fyre in hyr harte, nor my loue in hys breaste, yet I know well by what chaste and Nettes I muste take hym, then chaunce what maye, if I dye for it, I wyll cause hym to vnderstande by myne owne mouth, (syth imbassage is perilous in a matter of such consequence as this is) that which I suffer for hym, also I wyll desire hym to remedye my passyon, otherwyse I haue already cogitate the meanes to prouyde for my vnhappy and desperate lyfe, hauing found out this plot in her mynde, the wyly and lyle woman searching wyth her selfe, by what meanes to execute it. Fortune was so fauorable, that the same tyme Phyllip Vycont Duke of Myllayne, sente to fetch the Marques Nicholas, for certayne affayres of great importaunce, for dispatch whereof, he must remayne certayne dayes at Myllayne, wherefore the Marques of Ferraria, hauing addrest his Trayne, taketh his iourney towardes the Duke, of whom he was the Allye, and greatly beloued, which was no displeasure to the Marchiones his wyfe, for it came very fyt, that her husband being absent, she might practise with the vrinary county, for the accomplishment of her concupiscence, & for to procure him in tyme to come, to paye the arrerages of the absente Marques, by her deuyse, that were payable, & for that certayne dayes after the departure of

the

the Marchues, the fayre Foole hauing after dinner in her chaumber, fantasying the meanes to perfourme the plot of her deuyses, taketh a Lute in hand, & she cauleth to sound so sweetely, and withsuch cunning, that the Damsel her Secretarye, was as one hauing her eares depending of the stringes of the instrument, during which the Marchyones made her voyce agree with the sound, singing this that insueth.

O Cupid thou, which doest in hauty Skyes,
Amongst the great, and deuyne Gods soiourne,
And eke that preiente arte with terren wightes,
To cause their hartes, with loners lawes to bourne.

To thee O God, whose Bowe and golden Shafte,
Doth wound both Gods and men alyke:
And caste at euery one, to yeelde themselues to thee,
And subiects to bee one, of all Dyanas fyre.

To thee I take, and sweare my fixed vowe,
If I by helpe of thee, my wyshed loyes attayne:
Then must I only prayse thy mighty Bowe,
And subiect wyll to thee, for euermore remayne.

THe Song ended, shee begynneth to search her thoughtes more deepelye then before, and she well well by her countenaunce that they was no other thing, then the common passyon that she imagined, that so troubled her thoughts and erred your countenaunce, in the

ende banquished with the extreame delyte of her pleasure, shee commaundeth the Damsell whome she so greatly trusted, to goe cause the Counte Eugenes alone to come vnto her, for a matter of great importaunce, e whych shoulde very well content him, to whom the Damsell obeyes, not without great suspition of that, which came to passe, for it was shee alone that perceyued the wanton lookes and sighes, sent forth by her Mistresse, when she was amased to beholde the Countye, before whome when the Damsell was come, she sayeth vnto hym: Syr, my Ladye desyres you to come talke a little wyth her, for a thing that appertayneth to you, whome you shall fynde in her chamber attending with good deuotyon, as I beleeue, to communicate vnto you, a thing that hitherto hath not bene knowne, desyred, or perused by you. The Prince taking no regarde to the wordes of the Messenger, but guyded by hys mishap, goeth to the Chamber of the Marchiones: During this, the Damsell that went to seeke the Countye, knowing well that the enormitie of the case that she imagyned, doeth withhold her to goe agayne to her Mistresse, because she would not impeach the ioy of her, whose lyfe she had seene led wyth so much sorrow, retyreth into a wardrobe, where she (presaging the misfortune of the faire couple) being confounded with teares, in the end agreuaded

wyth

wyth sorrowe, and set vppon by slumbring, through wearynesse fell on sleepe. Then the County being entered into the Chamber of his fayre mother, she comming towardes him, to receyue him very courteously, taketh him by the hand, and causeth him to syt down by her. But when it came to the poynt, that the fayre Lady would haue addrest her trayne, her hart begonnes to leape within her belly, her sences do denye to fulfyll the office of the exteryoure members, for her tongue was mute, her eyes deiecte, and her vysage chaunged into suche a Vermillyon, that she would haue abashed the vaut colrour of the Sonne, and surely this chaunge was caused of two contraryes, that is to wit, loue, and shame, the one wouldе haue her shew forth her greefe, the other direct contrary, by naturall wyll and inclynation, but in the end, the more vnperfect and lesse puissaunt in the good cause, became victoryous, for the Lady, after she had syghed a good space, without speaking any worde, wearye of her vndiscreete sylence, as shee thoughte it, in the ende breakyng her sylence, wyth a looke whyche was sufficyente to enter into the depth of hys harte, (suche was her cunning to moove hym to compassyon) hauing her voyce trembling, and euill assured, for the contynuaunce of that whyche she felte in her mynde, and sustayning dyuers affections that mooued her spirite, she

tooke the yong Prynce delicately by the fayre hande, saying vnto him: My Lorde, if I had not manye occasyons to addresse my lamentations, and iust complaynts, you may beleeue, if it please you, ꝑ I am not so vnshamefaste, as to deceyue your eares, and by myne owne meanes to manifest before you a thing, that although as it may be, you shal thinke it very straunge, yet it doth touch you so neare, that for the loue which I beare you, that are more deare vnto me then you thinke, I cannot, nor am able to keepe it from you, for in so doing, I shoulde wilfully betray you, & should doe both against my conscience, and the duty of her towardes you, that holdeth the place wherein I am, I know you are not ignorante of the lyfe that the Marques your Father hath ledde, synce the death of her of good memory, your Ladye and mother, and what troupe of Bastardes euery one seeth at this day in your house, which if God doe not otherwyse prouyde, shall vse no lesse inhumanitye one day towards you, then your father did once towards his Colyn, the lawfull inheritour of this countrey, whome he expulsed, & sent in exile into Candy, for I see as well the small account they make of you, as of me, which haue wished a hundered times ꝑ I had neuer come into this country, not only for the greefs that I haue felt, but also for that I foresee the mischiefs that are prepared for you,

if

if you doe not wyſely preuent thē, I neither do nor would haue you think, that I counſell you to fil your handes with the blood & life of him, of whom you had your beginning, but I would haue you vnderſtand, that I giue you this aduyſe, that you open the eye of your intendmēt, to forſee to what end theſe things may turne, and as for mee, there is nothing in my power, wherwith I will fayle to ſuccour you, ſith it is euen you, to ſay the truth (ſaith ſhe) imbraſing & killing him, my deare friend, whom I loue & eſteme more then any man that liues, which if it pleaſe you, I wil cauſe you know by experiēce. O would to God ỳ the hower of my alyās had ſucceded after my mind, truely no other ſhould haue inioyd the daughter of ỳ Lord Maleteſt, then the County Hugues, for when my Lord & Father did intreate with me for the mariage of the Lorde of Ferraria, it was you whome he talked with me of, & not the Marques, God pardon the folly of him, that ſo fouly deceyued me, ſyth ỳ vnyon of vs two had bene far better deuyſed, thē with your Father, the age equal, & the cōformity of maners ỳ might haue conioyned vs with a perpetual band, which now am bound againſt my wil to him ỳ deſpiſeth me, & who it is that loueth & cheriſheth ỳ mothers of them ỳ one day, as it may chance, ſhall depryue you both of your honour & lyfe, then thinke my Lord what ſorrow it ſhould be to me, in that I

had lost the meanes to bee perpetually yours, and consyder what should be my lyfe to come, (louing you as I doe) if I should see the ruine, and destructyon of your estate. Alas, God is my wytnesse, wyth what anguyshe I open these my secretes vnto you, for the desyre that I haue, that you mighte be wholy myne, as I am yours, is so ingrafted in my harte, that only death must make the seperation, in saying so she kysseth and imbraseth him of an other fashyon, then a chaste woman doth imbrace her Parentes and familiars, and then she retourneth to her former purposes, saying: Therfore my Lorde and greatly beloued friend, bee not you the occasyon of the death of her that seketh to increase your honour, and thereby doth render her selfe of a most vnhappy, the fortunates Lady that liues at this day, haue pittie of her which so liberally and prodigallye offereth her selfe vnto you, but if crueltye haue more place in you, then the prayers I make vnto you, and the synguler loue that I beare you, kill, kill, I say (my Lord) thys miserable Lady, the which if you refuse, shall not cease to execute that vpon her selfe, whereof you made the refusall, whych will be the occasyon both of your dishonour, and the losse of the best and moste loyall louer, that you had in this world.

The County no lesse abashed of the words, then of the wanton imbracinges of his fayre mo-

mother, was so far beyde himselfe, that without anie wearing, or hauing power to departe from her, remayned no lesse unmoueable, then was once the wyfe of Lot, tourned into a piller, and Rocke of Salte. The Marchyones who was excellent fayre, yong, tender, and delycate, and whole lokes were so fyne and gracious, that I beleeue, if the most wylfull and abstinent of the Philosophers of former tyme, had felte the temptation of an obiect so fayre and celestyall, they would haue quyte lefte, forsaken, and forgotten, the contemplacyon of naturall thinges, to haue geuen themselues to execute the very effectes of nature. I thinke also if the Daughter of Mynos, had bene of like beauty, good graces, attemptes and intylenesses, as was this Lady, I doubt not at all. But that her Hypolite, although he were frowarde or lunetyque, would haue enioyed and cherished her, and lefte Diana, to haue sowne his seedes in the Garden of her, that with such instaunce requyred him of mercy. Thys fayre Temptaresse, then seeing her toner in such alterations, and so surprised with shamefastenesse, also because he had not showne any semblaunce of displeasure, with any thing she had done, she purposeth to passe further, and to stryke bolde, the Myon was whote: to the ende that the yong Prince, during his dyners thoughtes, shoulde not measure with reason

the greatnesse of his vnnaturall deedes, & the abhomination of the sinne which he committed against his father, in defiling the person of her, in whom the blood of his had bene mingled. Likewise, because he should not discouer the great perrill & danger, wherinto he cast himselfe headlong, in taking the vnhappy counsel of ỳ wanton courtesan. Wherfore she cast her arme ouer ỳ necke of the Prince, kissing & imbracing him in such sorte, ỳ at the last, the poore County yelded to ỳ assault, who being once entised by her vnseemely prouocations, & wicked doings, not only fulfilled ỳ which she so naughtily desired, but was so inflamed with that rage, & impoysoned with the venim, that loue had spread ouer the coralyne cheekes of this new Bedia, that beginning to set apart the duty that he owes to his father, and to the honour of the Nuptial bed, the violating whereof, hath euer brought with it the ruyne & dishonour of the violaters, he was so far estranged from his former modesty, ỳt he kisseth the mouth, lippes, eyes, as also the white & delicate necke of the Mariyones, then passing further, he erecteth his hand ouer her two round Dugs, that by their equall and like quantitie, cause two little hils eleuate a little about the stomacke of the fayre Lady, at the entrye of which, there breatheth a fountaine that makes them fruely ryse and fall, according to the passions that moue within the

.iii.

the center of her haute, he then beholding her
breeche to touche any place of his pleasaunt en-
nemy, putteth his hand to the place most desy-
red, and in whiche loures seeke to obtayne the
mercy of loue, & then feeling her belly that was
round, hard, and more whyte the the top of the
Alpes, after that the wynter had whyted the
with frost, she then shrinking away from him,
perceyuing that she had ouercome him so fyne-
ly, shutteth her eyes, sayning a pleasaunte and
no great displeasure, that did well declare her
bellyes, thy ryuno him: Alas my deare friend
that cause my death, oh that you would quench
this fyre that consumeth my lyfe, and whereof
I am sure you feele the quick sparkes, at which
wordes the painter was so shaked in his fan-
neys, that without doing his former reuerē-
ces, he taketh that paine in Musicke, whych
he neuer tofore had tryed, and found the ac-
cords so sweet, and so correspondent to his plea-
sures, he purposeth to continue thē, if increase it
should seeme good to his mistresse, which was
not so vnpleasant, but that hauing found the be-
ginning so well doue, by the measure and free-
dome of hym, shee easilye gaue her consente.
Marke and beholde here the second Acte of the
Tragedy, that thou mayst see, if the ioyes and
pleasures of men may be pertual, if it be not
more a doe for the Nobles to keepe secrete
their folies, then for the meane sort to manifest

them, and surely they are a great deale sooner espyed in the estate of the common weale, then all the members that are more weake, and of lesse puissaunce, for where the heade is troubled, it is impossible that the members shoulde not feele some apprehension of their mishappe and sorrowe. This is the cause why men intreate alwayes of Princes, and make so small accompte of the doinges of the pledain rable, the memory of whome vanisheth away so soone as the wynde. But for that tyrelt two could not well devyse all thinges themselues, without hauing a tryde person, they intende to imparte their affayres to the Damsell, that was sent to seeke the County, and whom, assisted of that, whiche they had done togyther. To her then after the County was departed the Chamber, enamoured and inflamed of his louing mother, the Marchyones, addresse her with a countenaunce more gay, then accustomed, saying: My deare friend, you haue seene in what case I haue passed my tyme hytherto, and the small ioy I receiued during the presence of the Marques, but GOD hath so prouyded that hee is absent for certayne dayes, to the ende that I should make prouysyon for the tyme to come: of that which I stand in neede of, and by this his ablence, might get my selfe that goodnesse which should ende all my euils, I haue chosen

me

me such a louer, as nature cannot shape a more perfect, eyther in beuty, liberallitye, courtesy, or worthynesse, and so noble, that he is the seconde in goodnesse to Nobilitie herself, which I imparte vnto you, for that I haue knowne you hytherto both wyse and faythfull, to keepe my secretes in such sort, as they oughte to bee, also you are she that hath heard the communycations of my former affections, and the symple objections, for the appechending of my loue, reasō would also, I should manifest vnto you, to what ende all this tendeth, and that whych followeth, trusting onely in your vertue, and honest discretion, that you wyll keepe secrete this facte, as the persons whome it toucheth doe deserue, and as the good and affectionate amitie, wherych I haue borne you requyreth. And as she would haue cōtinued her purpose, the Damsell impacyent to be sollicited, sayeth vnto her: Would that God, Madame, had cut of the threade of my yeares, when I fyrst set my foote in this vnhappye house, for by that meanes, I shoulde haue anoyded two euils, wherevnto my misfortune doeth throwe mee headlong, without which I might otherwyse haue lyued, for (all his Daughters whose I am) it shall be a great dishonestye, to vse a seruice so vnseemely, both for my age, and estate, and which shall fall out in the ende, consydering the abhomination of the facte, that I

thinke, that I muste seeke an offence that will cause the totall ruine both of you and him, for whome you addresse this foolish and naughty deuyled aduyse, not for that I am she, whych intende to defame you, for death shall be more agreeable vnto mee, as God shall receyue mee, then to see an accidente so preiudiciall, both to your age and honoure. But alas, the iudgementes of GOD are so righte and so equall in the Ballaunce of hys Iustyce, that there is nothyng done there in vayne, I knowe, and GOD seeth, sayth she (fetchyng a sygh from the bottome of her hart) wyth what anguyshe I lamente this, that the Countye is hee (O GOD) the onelye remembraunce makes me blushe in wyttnesse) whych is the chiefe tenant of the bedde, and the most vyous Gouernall of hys couente Father, it is hee that for your sake, hyngeth vengeaunce vppon hymselfe, and which thinkyng to remedye your greefes, hath composed a medicyne so bytter, that the onelye smell will cause such an horrour, that hee will curse the howre a hundered tymes, wherein he began that, whyche as I perceyue, he hath executed. Alas, would God that I were a false Deuynatresse in this: But as for you, Madame, holde you assured of my fayth, by whiche I sweare vnto you, that what torment soeuer shall happen, whether it be sorrowe, or death, howe ignominyous soeuer it be, shall not force

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me to say any thing that may denigrate the honour of my Mistresse, conserued hytherto with so great a good reputatiõ. Moreouer Madam, imploy me in what it shall please you, for syth the thing is done, the counsell thereof, is already taken, & you shal be by experience effect, how I am mynded to do you seruyce, in that it shall please you to imploy me. Ah my dere friend, thẽ sayth ỳ Marchyones, how your wordes haue pierced my harte, wherby I know we you haue told me the truth, but what, the force of loue is so great & vehement, that I cannot tell how to withdraw my self now from it, that I thynke my destenny hath done it for my contentment, & also because amongst all the humayn passions, this is it that hath the preference, that cannot be auoided with any force or study, that one bestowes, & therfore I desire you to talk no more of this misfortune vnto me, for we will vse such prouidence, that the most clere sighted shal not know what to think, only instruct you ỳ Countye of ỳ he hath to do, & of the howers at which he may cõmodiously come vnto my chamber, it is now in your hands my friend, that you may end both my lyfe & honour, and that yet holde the good or euill fortune of the Countye, in your power. Thus there passed certayne Monthes, that the two louers reioyced togyther, wythoute any of the Courtyers suspectynge anye thyng, of so detestable a Felonye, and execrable abhomynacyon, who

although they beheld the courtelyes that the Marchiones she wed to the County, & whom she then intertayned verye familliarlye: But they thought that she did it to pleasle the Marques, to the end that hee should not thinke she hated the children of his fyrst wyfe, and also for that as I sayde before, the County was so honest and curteous, that he rauished the hart of euery one towards him, which did yet confyrm the opynyon of the Gentlemen, that this amity of the Lady, towards the yong Prince, was extended onely for the sole vertue & gentle nurture of the Countye. But Fortune that cannot forget her Nobilitie, and the heauens angry for an acte so infamous, and an iniurye so detestably committed, both agaynste God, and agaynste the Father and husband of both the offenders, styrred vp a more wyly and subtle discouerer of secrete faults, which is Time, who did the office of a good Seruaunt, after that by the very foolishnesse of the two louers, their folly was made euydent, they gouerning themselues so vndiscretly togythers, and with so small respecte of persons, tyme, and place, that in the ende blynded in their pleasure, and gintted in their ease, they thought that Tyme would alwayes haue bene so fauourable, as she had bene almoste the space of two yeares. Now let alone the Marques of Ferraria, that doubted nothing of the great dishonoure that his

hys sonne did vnto him, and of the false conuaye of his wyfe, which sent him vnto Cornouall wythout a Boate. It chanced that a yeoman of the chamber of the myserable County, beganne to suspecte something of that whyche passed betwyxte the two infortunate Yonglinges, for he saw ordinarilye that as soone as the Marques was gone anye nighte into the Towne, to vysyte some of hys Concubynes, the Countye fayled not to goe all alone oute of his Chamber, whych was the cause that he assured him of his doubte, and therefore purposyng to seeke out the truth (beholde the iuste iudgements of God) which seeing the mallice that men haue to commit euill and detestable sinnes, often tymes giueth speech to yong Infantes, or wyse dome vnto Beastes, to publishe it. For this cause hee beginneth to spye all the deedes, countenaunces, actes, and wordes of the Prince: and the enterpryse of the gallant succeeded so well, that after he had bethought of it, beeing in a Wardrope adioyning to the Chamber of the Marchyones, marke the dyuyne permissyon. The sinne being come to the rypenesse of hys abhominatyon, he espyed by chaunce a small hole in the wall, whyche was built ouer agaynst the Bed, wherein she lay ordinarily, by this Creupse then, the cleare eyed spye, hoped to see that, whych so long tyme he had desyred and imagyned, and as he saw the

enemy of nature before him, he makes a thousand lynges of the crosses, with such an abashment, that then hee wouldе not beleeue, that which he saw euidently with his eyes, in the end beholding the thing more nerely, and perceyuing that he was not deceyued at all, hee sayeth very softly to himselfe, and by God it shall not be long, before I will also make the Marques to vnderstand it, to the end, he may punish the one of hys foule temeritie, and the other of her great wantonnes & lasciuious incontynencie, now he attending opportunitye to cause the Marques to view this pittyous and vnruely Spectacle, beheld it chaunced two or three dayes after, the infortunate Prince, not doubting the treason, which the yeoman of hys chamber did cõmit, that so soone as he saw hys father goue into the stable to view his Horses, euen then he wẽt into the chãber of the Lady, to continue the way begon, within the bed of his Lord & father, but his Argus which slept not at al, following him by little and little, and hauing seene him enter the lists, returneth towards the father, to shew him that, which so long tyme he had desyred, & to make him iudge of the vnfortunate Louers. This Traytor (although his fact hath some aparẽce of Iustice) arriued before the Marques, saith vnto him, al abashed & astonied for y he had sene: My Lord, if fortune did suffer me to shew and declare one of

the

the moſt wicked facte that euer chaunced in Italy, I ſhould cauſe you to maruayle, and (as it might be) by reſyting ſo ſtraunge a thing, I ſhould make your cheekes to bluſh, and inrage your hart, ſo abhominable is the caſe, but becauſe I would not make you looſe y diſcourſe, may it pleaſe your noble Lordſhip to come alone, whether I will conduct you, where you ſhall ſee with your eyes, that which I cannot commodyouſly reſyte vnto you in order. The Marques which was a mā of a good corage, & deſyrous to know rare & ſtraunge things, went with the guyde euē to the place, where he ſaw the act playde, that afterward was the death of the chiefe perſōs in the Tragedy, then ſayth the ſpye vnto the Marques, I beſeech you my Lord, to contemplate a little through this creuiſe, whyche they leade in your abſence, that ſith you are preſent, the diſloyalty of the that be moſt nere vnto you, is ſo euidently ſhown. The good Marques had no ſooner looked through the creuice, then he ſpyed his ſonne interlaſed & infolde about the neck of the Marchioneſs, and the wanton toyes of the Ladye towardes the County, the Father of whome was ſo conſtant, that hee attended to what ende theſe imbraſementes and toyes would come, but when hee ſawe the Game would redounde to his diſaduantage, and to the perpetual infamye of hys houſe, with great payne he obſerued himſelfe from being ouercome wyth rage,

and that he had not broke open the dore of the Chamber, vpon the Campe, where were these couple of infortunate Louers, to haue caused them to dye vpon the very fact, alwayes the passyon of his mynde, was so penetrable, that he coulde not by a good space remoone from thence, but remayned there wholy troubled and confused in teares, running downe along hys bearde, that now begynneth to ware white, in the end, euaporating the ozder of hys harte, he began to say.

Alas, vnhappy olde man, that I nowe shall be, that notwythstanding the flowers of thyne Age, arte dishonoured by thyne owne bloud, and the substaunce of thyne entrayles, what is it the onely sonne (amongest them that bee lawfull) which hath vnlawfullye abused thy Spouse? shal I be both the witnesse, Party, and Judge in this cause? and in executing of this iudgement, that I must needes do both by law and iust displeasure, I shall put to death two persons, that I loue beste in this worlde: No, no, the amitie of Maryage shal ende here, towards her, that hath put oute the lighte of my honour, and hath blotted the reputation common to vs both, and the charitye of the father towardes the sonne, shall lose his force in me, syth the chylde in vsurping the Bed of the Father, hath geuen conecture of his will, to take awaye the lyfe of hym, of whome he had

hys

his owne, and of whome hee hath stayned the honour: what if once a Romaine Captayne, hath punished, as it might be, to seuerelye hys sonne: in that hee had surpassed his commandemente, touching a certayne expedition in deedes of Armes, whereof although hee had gloryously attayned the wyshed end of his desyres, then what shall I doe, beholding my self so vyly betrayed: and so euill dishonoured by him, whyche ought to bee the reuenger of the tryne, whereof my eyes haue seene the execution, I beseech God that pytty may not moue my harte to pardon him of this fault, or to dissemble this great and extreme hartebreache, that hyng, causeth my death, and so reuenging a pryuate iniurye, I shall punish the most abhominable synne, that a man can thinke. Then for the quyetnesse of my mynde, and example of Justyce to the posteritye, my sonne shall dye wyth the vnshamefast loue, whiche was cause of all thys, and by whych meanes I shall depart from my only lawfull begotten sonne, and from my honour, whych is more dere then chyldren, riches, or lyfe. The sorowfull and inraged father with this deliberation, seeking to execute his deuyse, his sonne departed into the base Court of the Castle, wythout thinking of the perill, or ruyne, that hys misfortune dyd prepare for him, and their bandes the Hall with the Gentlemē of his age, where

was greater companye of people to see the playe, then were there of long tyme before: for I think, that some coniecture of the future Spectacle had broughte thyther thys route, to the ende that wyth more shame, the County and hys incestyous Louer shoulde be imprysoned. Also these be the Menaces, wherewyth God threatneth the wycked, that their pryuye sinnes committed in the obscurity of the night, shall be one day punished openly, and to the sighte of all the people, duryng this then, that the vnfortunate Prynce (more brane and ioyfull then accustomed) did contynue hys playe, behold there comes the keeper of the Castle, wyth a good troupe of Archers, wel appoynted, he in the presence and hearing of euery one, addressing him to the Countye, sayeth vnto him: O Prince it is nowe full tyme that you make ready your selfe to come before other then these be, where you must answere to the coniurations, Felonyes, conspiracies, & facts, agaynst the person of my Lord the Marques, your Father, by whose commandement, sayth he, putting his hand to his coller, I make and constitute you his Prisoner, I am sorry for your misfortune, & more sorrowful that it should bee I that must keepe you in prysou, always trust in your great simplicitie, & likewyse, if it please you, excuse that wherein I doe, being constrayned by him, which hath power both ouer mee,

and

and you: O extreme force, and tyrgor of the conscience, which moueste so iuely the hartes of them, that feele themselues guilty of any fault, that the blast of euery wynd that blowes, & by the wagging of euery lefe that they see moue, they thinke they behold before their eyes a torment, and a contynuall punishment, that wyll neuer suffer them to take any rest, whereof comes the great griefe, and the small assurance that they haue of themselues, whych are so troubled by the very interyour iudgemente of their owne spirite, that they gyue sure wytnes of that thing, whych (as it might haue chaunced) other wyle had bene in doubte, so the yore Countye seeing himselfe commoned to go espouse and defyle another bed, then that wherin heretofore he had receiued so much contentment, fayled not then to thynke of the accroesyng of hys euils, and the small hope that hee might or could haue to be delyuered, therefore halfe attached wyth dispayre, hee sayeth vnto the Prouest, Go forward Captain, whether it shall seeme good vnto you, for of long tyme I haue attended no other intreaty of him, then that whyche I now see prepared for me. No, no, my Lord, sayth the Prouest, haue a good harte, God is able to ayde you, & puissaunt to make euery one to know ỹ right of your cause, also my Lorde the Marques wyll doe nothing agaynst you, without the counsel of ỹ most wise

and treatned men of his house, which ought to cause you to hope of some better hap, then you thinke of, & then he conducteth the Prince into the great Tower of the Castle, which standeth iust against the Porte Pelyon. And during this tyme, there were some gone in lyke sute, and by lyke commandement to seeke the Watchyones, as they had done the Countye, who then was amongest her Gentlewomen, playing this song, as the Prognostication of her misfortune, and the Prophecy of the common Burgall, that vnyted after their death, the executed body both of her, and the Countye.

THe man by counsell of the Gods,
In this low earth that's placed:
Hath not so many ioyfull dayes,
But one mishap hath them defaced.

And vnto whome hath not Fortune assigned,
For euery ioy, a hundereth greefes to taste:
Why should I then my selfe so sore annoy?
And shead so many teares, day and night in waste.

The Pleasure which my nourishment doth giue,
And eake my weary troubled mynde doth ease:
That only ioy which should my lyfe sustayne,
Is fled away to shorten now my dayes.

Alas (O God) alas, what meaneth this chaunce?
That of myne ende so sure a sygne to be?

As

As take a token playne of greefe for to ensue,
Of much vnrest and great mischaunce to me.
What must I see of him the cruell death,
By whome my perfect welfe doth come:
O God, O God, that all things doest behold,
Thy holy will for euermore be done.
And cause thou me vnperfect wight,
To see thy glorious throne in highest Skye:
Syth euery one alyke by death shall ende,
And hyghest state on earth, that lyues, must dye.

AS soone as the poore Lady atchieued the end, the Marshall of the Houshold vsing the same ambassage to her, as before to the Queene, carried her Prisoner vnto (not her so deer, a good space from that, where the Queene was inclosed.

The Marques during this styrre, beholding all the world asstonyed, to see a thyng of so much maruayle, and a Spectacle so cruell, as the vnpryssonment of hys sonne, that shoulde one day succeede him, and of hys wife, whom he had so derely loued, because men should not accounte hys facte vnlawfull, or cruell Tyranny, he procured syllence to be commaunded, and before a great company of his Barrons, and houshold Gentlemen, with a graue Maiesty, that extreymely gaue euident token of his interyour greefe: After he had spent an infynite

number of teares, accompanyed with sorrowfull sighes, he began to say: What one amongst you all, my good and louing friends, can well brooke that, whyche is lately done by mee, both vppon my Sonne, and vpon the Archyones, for that you know not the true occasyon, and by that meanes, you estreeme mee an vnkynde husbande, and a Father seuere and cruell, agayust all right and reason, and would it might please God that your playntes were lawfull, and that I had done wyong in thys, truelye then my deare friendes, I should haue no occasyon to make you partakers of my heauynesse, nor of the shedding of thote teares that you see runne downe along the face of hym, that wythout them, cannot expresse vnto you, the iuste cause of hys dute, and also the greate reason of hys so doyngne truelye, (if it ought not to be named equitye) that neuer heretofore hath shewed any effecte of hys malyce, towardes anye man that lyues, if hyslie hee haue not gyuen hym the occasyon, for it is no lesse prayse woorthye in a Prynce, to gouerne hys people wyth gentlenesse, equitye, and clemencye, then to punishe the seditious, and disquyetors of the peace, because that such patience shewed to one, should not bee the common ruyne of all the whole people. Thys is it, whereunto he ought to

extende

extende all hys force, to retelle to hasten the te-
nerdye of the fondlyke, which to recompence
the fydelitie of them, whych hath feined hym
faythfully, shewing all theffyce of obedience
towardes their Lordes. What if the lawe doe
inioyne this duety in the vnnatural and vnkinde
to wardes the natural and liege Lorde, nature
conioyned with the lawe, doe constrayne and
more streightly bynde the infants, whych owe
to their Parents honour, obedience, pietye, & al
good offeces, not only of that whyche is exte-
riour, but also of the intercourse it selfe, which is
the good will and perfect amitye, by which the
harte of the Sonne ought to be vnyted vnto
the pleasure and will of the Father. But O im-
mortall God, what Father would be so pitti-
full and merciful, that seeing the wylfe of hys
sonne vpon his owne throate, and coulde staye
him, would suffer hym to depryue hym of lyfe?
But what lyfe ought he to be equall to honour
for the atchyeuing and attayning whereof, all
the noble and gentle myndes haue once desyre-
ed, and yet do desyre their lyues? Alas my
friends, the complaynt which I make before
you, is against my sonne & wyfe, the forgetful-
nesse of whome, is extended euen vnto the de-
facyng of myne honoure, wherein both I, and
my predecessors haue passed our age, I will
bring you no other witnesse then myne owne
eyes, that haue seene one of the most abhorri-

nable and wicked fact that a man can think, it is that which I cannot speake, without an inmeasurable greefe, and without hanging my countenaunce, for the shame hee hath done me. That is, the County Hugnes hath defyled the nuptiall bed of the Marques of Ferrara, his father, and the soueraign Lord of you all, it is he that hath polluted the house, that is counted in the raygne of the moste noble in all Europe, this is he that incestyously hath violated the secretes and pryuities, the entrance whereof, weare lawfully permitted to none, but me alone. To whome shall I complayne? and who shall reuenge me of thys iniurye? Alas, my harte breaketh, my sences fayle me, and my forces are weakened, only there remaines a desyre to do Justice, not that it might be condigne to the abhomination of the faulte, but that I might thereby take away this blot from my shoulders, and moderate a little the greefe that pricks me, and whiche yet serueth for the repentance of them shall haue offended the Maiesty demyde to greeuous dye, that their doynges haue giuen cause to them that come after, to blase abroade the follye of their youth, and in saying so, his speech fayled him, and ouercome with sorrow, and the impacience of his choler, he sounded in the armes of his Gentleme, who carryed him into his chamber, greatly abashed of the wickednesse of the two offenders, which

they

they beleeued, as wel for the reuerences of him that did woytnesse to haue seene it, as for the remembraunces of the impudent lookes, and lasciuious toyes of the Marchiones, towardes the Countye, that made them thinke it was she that made the pit, wherein both she and the Countye were intrapped, as sone as the Marques was come to himselfe, there was no man so bolde that durst say any word vnto him, but depending wholye of the wyll of their Lorde, were of that aduyse, that the processe should be quickly dispatched, and that Iustyce should be done to the two Patientes, as well for their comfortes, as to gyue some contentmente to a Father rightly displeased agaynste his sonne, and as a husband deadlye hating the Palyardyse of his wyfe, towardes whome he sente one of his Counsellers, with two good Father Fryers, men well lyked of the people, both for their lyfe and learning, the one to carrye the heauy and sorrowfull newes of his death, and the others to mooue hym to repentance of his synnes, and to pray to God to haue mercye on hys soule. As soone as they were come before the yong Prynce, who seeing the Counceller, and hearing the sentence of his death, hee began to say, weeping very tenderly. Ah vnhappye flesh, and fylthye delyres, it is for thy pleasures that I must dye this daye. O vnhappye wretche that I am, not for that I dye, but be-

cause I am the procurer of his choler, & cause of his dule, & for that I haue set such trouble in his house, as shall not so well, & so sone be forgotten as I would wyth. Alas my Lord & father, pardon this detestable offēce of him that hath vsed himself otherwise toward you, then the chyld ought towards ỳ father, I cōfesse I am the most mysserable, that euer was born of a mother, & the most detestable ỳ the Sunne shyneth on this daye. Alas good Lorde, suffer not my soule to be punished, seruing for the pasture of that vyle serpent & deuouring Lyon, that doth nothing but go about to deceiue and inuyron vs, & cause vs to fall into his lake. O Lord haue mercy, haue mercy on me, & suffer not the bloud of thy sonne to be shed in vayne for me. Alas I must dye, not for the confessing of the fayth, and glorifying of thy name before men, but for my owne wickednesse, & the multitude of my demerites, ỳ which next after the great wickednesse committed against thy dyuyne maiesty, doth greeue me most, is the sorrowe of him that doth, and will redounde to my mischiefe & dishonour. But O my God, I beseech thee to comfort him, & giue me strēgth pacientlye to abyde this infamous & cruell punishment, that I see euen redy before my eyes. The Counseller seeing the repentaunce of the Prince, moued with compassyon, begā to wepe, & departed out of the pryson, went to make report therof to the Marques, who answered him,

him, it is not now time to become a good chri-
styan, syth he cãnot estape the iust vengeance
of God, by the myniſter of his humain iustyce;
and I beseech God that hee will pardon hys
synnes, & receyue him amongst the number of
his elect: saying so, left of, not able to beare the
sorow which did greeue him, for the remem-
braunce of the approching death of his sonne,
wherfore it was ordayned that they should be
quickly dispatched, one in ẏ sight of the other,
and this was done, for ẏ the Marques would
here no admonition, for he heard the sentence
was extended as well vpon the Countye, as
vpon her, that had made no sute for her lyfe,
because she saw they had cõdemned ẏ county,
then in the end seing she had done the fault,
she appoynteth with her self to receyue death,
in as good part as she could, which was giuẽ
to euery of them in their tower, within a my-
nute of an houre, not without an infynite nũ-
ber of teares shead and bespent, as well by
the Marques, which could not dissemble hys
affection, as by al thẽ of his house, that vniuer-
sally loued the sayre couple of infortunate Lo-
uers, ẏ vertue of whom, this blot except, could
well haue no comparison, but a lyttle enuie,
as sayeth the Apostle, doth easily rayse, season
and sower a great peece of dowe: like wyse, a
wyer ful slaunderous tong doth obfuscate all the
brightnesse of the former vertues, and vnpley-
soneth the good sauour of all the forpassed life.

These two Patients being executed, whylst men were preparing of rych and accustomable Funerals, they were broughte into the base Court of the Pallas, to the ende all the world should see and beholde the cause of their death, that yet renewed the teares and complaynts of men, as well for the one as for the other, bewayling the one for hys worthynesse, the other for her curtelye, and them both for their great bewtye, and youth, wherein they were, for as yet, the more aged of them, had not attayned the age of two and twenty yeares.

After this the Marques caused to bee prepared a rych and sumptuous furnyture for their funerals, and with such pompe as their greatnesse did requyre, their bodyes were broughte to be buryed in the couent of Saynt Frances, and there was erected a Tomb to be the common bed of the bodyes of them, whose hartes had bene surely conioyned togythers, when they were alyue, so these two myserable creatures had a small ease, for the induring of so great a punishment, and for all the contentment and satisfaction of their desyres, they had this only good, that by one kynd of death, they both should ende, and haue their bones enioy one Sepulcure togither. Here it is good to be aduysed, how and wyth what counsels men ought to loose their thinges, and their accurrentes, before they be executed, here maye you

gather

gather also what is the nature and condition of lynne, which once ingrafted in the harts of men, spreadeth his rootes so broade, that by great payne it cannot be extirped, but by the dissolucyon and death of the subiect, whereby they are cheefe cause of their owne ruyne. A good example certaynelye for the youth of this age, which without aduysement of the daungers that the flesh & the Deuyce of this worlde doe prepare for them, to their great shame, vse pryuate companye wyth them, that be of their kyndred, wythout aduysemente that the moste sage haue once fayled in these doinges, and haue perpetrated the thinges that are unworthy to be thought, and punishable only by death in them that commytte them.

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